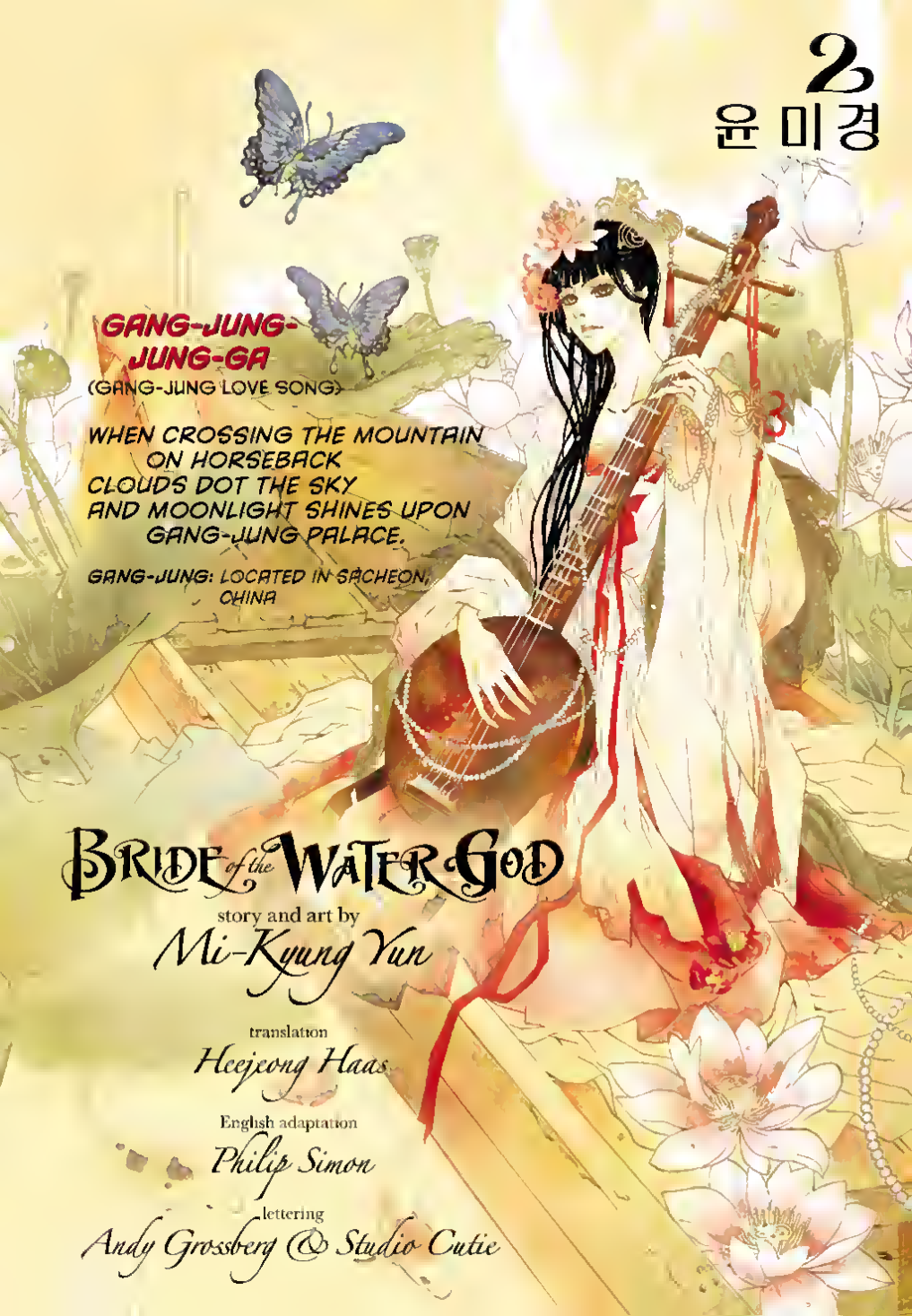
윤미경
Mi-Kyung Yun
2
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

2

윤미경


GANG-JUNG-JUNG-GA
(GANG-JUNG LOVE SONG)
WHEN CROSSING THE MOUNTAIN ON HORSEBACK
CLOUDS DOT THE SKY
AND MOONLIGHT SHINES UPON GANG-JUNG PALACE.
GANG-JUNG: LOCATED IN SACHEON, CHINA

Bride of the Water God

story and art by

Mi-Kyung Yun

translation

Heejeong Haas

English adaptation

Philip Simon

lettering

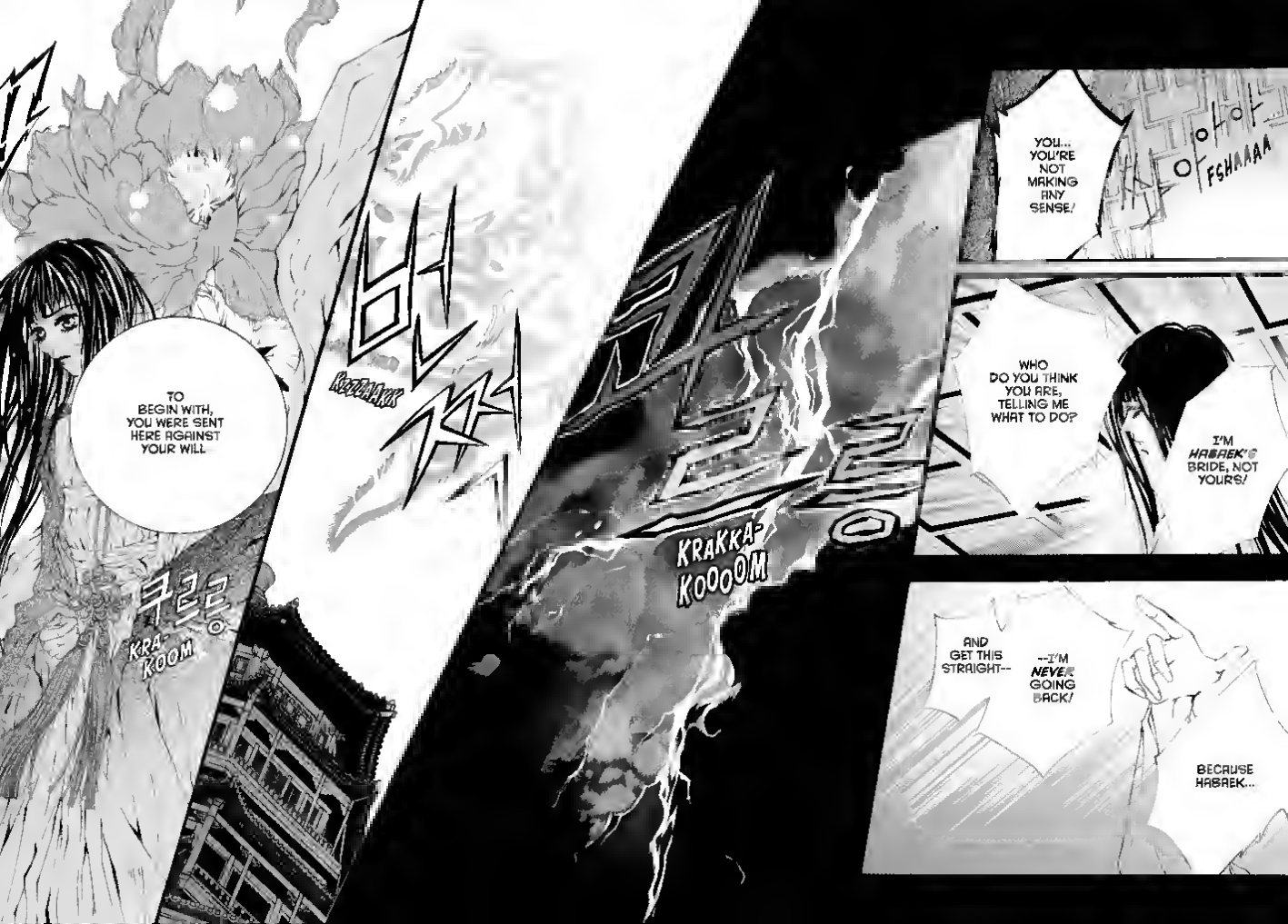
Andy Grossberg & Studio Cutie

THE GIRL FROM THE LEE FAMILY
IS A WISE AND GOOD GIRL.
THE BOY FROM THE JANG FAMILY
FELL IN LOVE WITH HER.
UNDER THE WINDING AND
FLOWING MOONLIGHT,
HE FELL IN LOVE WITH HER.
I MUST LOVE A GIRL
WHO BELONGS TO THIS WORLD.
I MUST FIND A BOY
WHO BELONGS TO THIS WORLD.

I MUST FIND A BOY
UNDER THIS
MOONLIGHT
WINDING AND
FLOWING
GENTLY.

쿠르릉
KRAKKA-
KOOM
쿠르릉
KOOM
쿠르릉
KA-
KOOM
샤아아아아
FSHAAAA

GO BACK HOME.
GO... BACK... HOME...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I JUST SAID YOU CAN GO BACK.
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE *HAPPY* NOW?
IT MEANS I'LL *HELP YOU* RETURN HOME.


TO BEGIN WITH, YOU WERE SENT HERE AGAINST YOUR WILL
KRA-KOOM
KRAKKA-KOOOOM
YOU... YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!
FSHAAAA
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, TELLING ME WHAT TO DO?
I'M HABAEK'S BRIDE, NOT YOURS!
AND GET THIS STRAIGHT--
--I'M NEVER GOING BACK!
BECAUSE HABAEK...

...HABAEK IS DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH ME!!

KRAKKA- KOOOOM
KCCCAJKK
DEEPLY IN LOVE?
WHO?
HABAEK?
Y-YES!

HE TOLD ME THAT I LOOKED *VERY NICE* ON THE FIRST DAY HE MET ME!
I'M SURPRISED. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WOULD LOOK SO *CUTE*, HABAEK.
THANKS. YOU'RE A LOT *MANLIER* THAN I AM-- AND HANDSOME AS WELL.
TCH! HUMANS ARE--I CLEARLY SAID TO OFFER THE *MOST BEAUTIFUL* WOMAN... LIARS. NOT ONLY *FIVE YEARS*, I WON'T LET IT RAIN FOR *FIVE HUNDRED YEARS*.
AND HE SAID *"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN"...!*
(HE REALLY SAID THAT!!)
AND...
WHISPER
소곤
...HE SAID HE WOULD PROTECT ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
SOMEBODY STOP ME, PLEASE.

TWAPP
OUT OF COMPASSION FOR YOU, I'M OFFERING TO HELP YOU GET BACK TO YOUR VILLAGE... BUT YOU'RE *REFUSING.*
I GUESS YOU DON'T MISS YOUR FAMILY ALL THAT MUCH?
BUT REMEMBER THIS...
THAT IS QUITE SHOCKING.
...MY WORDS ARE HABAEK'S WORDS.

쏴아아...
FSHAAAA
HABAEK, YOU LOOK UPSET. WHAT'S WRONG?
HABAEK IS DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH ME!
HEH!
WHAT THE--? YOU'VE FINALLY GONE MAD?
큭큭큭큭
HEH HEH HEH HEH!

Not...
FSHAAA
I GUESS YOU DON'T MISS YOUR FAMILY ALL THAT MUCH?

IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING... NO, IT CAN'T.

SOAH...

...SOAH...

...BUT I AM...

...I AM...

KSHOH
FSHAAA
SO...
...I CANNOT GO BACK.

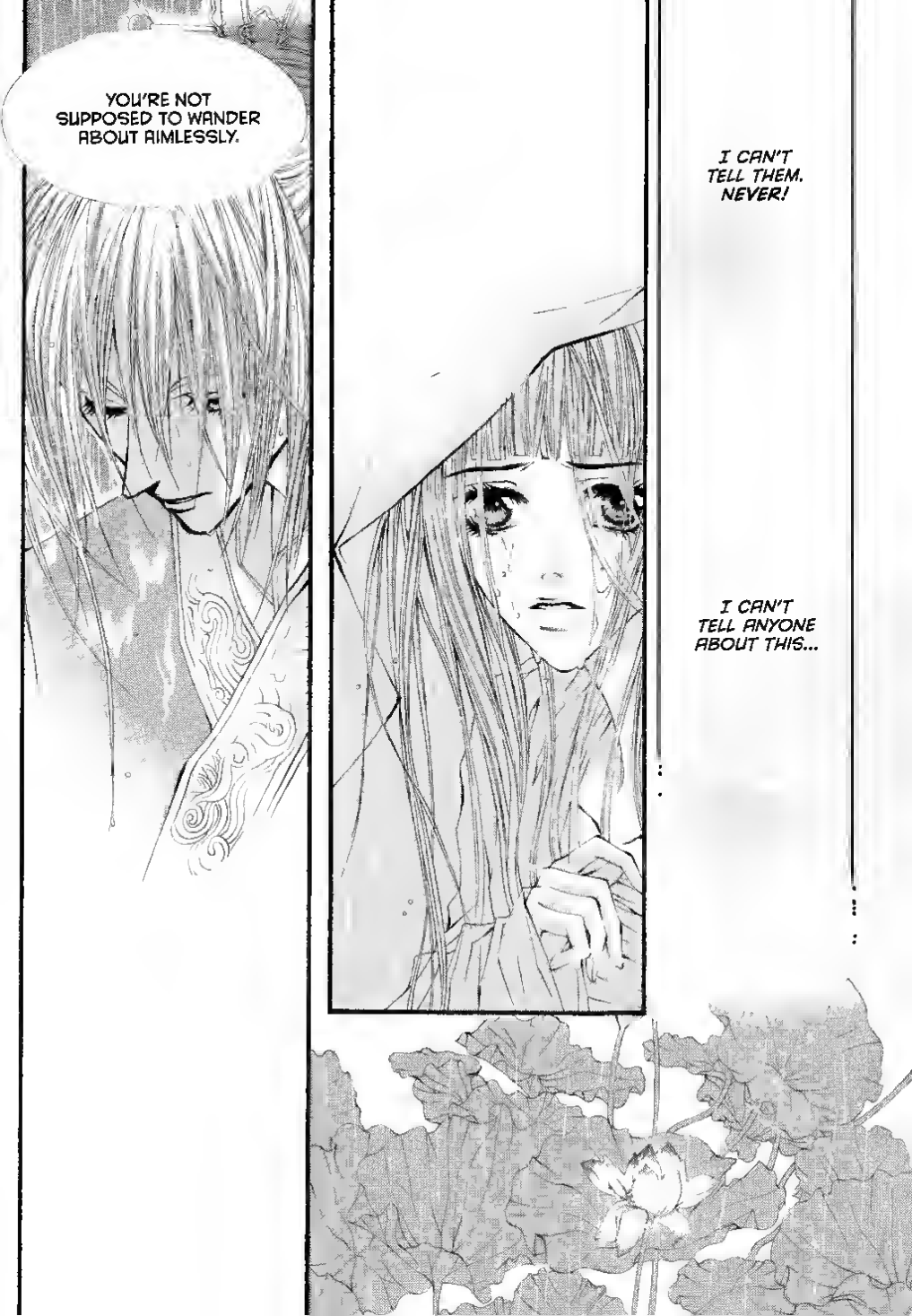
IT'S POURING DOWN...
HABAEK... I WONDER IF SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM.
HEY, YOHEE...
...IF... JUST IF...
...WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE'S CAUGHT DECEIVING A GOD?

HMM? WELL... SOMETHING LIKE... THEIR SOUL'S *TORN TO PIECES* SO THEY CAN NEVER BE REBORN...
...OR THEY'RE TORTURED AND SUFFER FOR ETERNITY AND CAN NEVER DIE EVEN THOUGH THEY BEG FOR IT.
HA HA HA! BUT DON'T YOU WORRY...
타
TAK
...I DOUBT THERE'LL EVER ACTUALLY BE ANYONE THAT BRAVE.
KRAKKA-KOOM
WHEW! I HATE THIS KIND OF WEATHER.

YOHEE, WHERE'D YOU GET THE DOG?
I FOUND HIM IN THE GARDEN. CUTE, HUH?
SQUEEZE
WHAT ABOUT SORA?
HUH? SHE WAS RIGHT HERE WITH ME.
WHERE DID SHE GO?
FSHAAAA

"YOU WILL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME."
"GO BACK."
I KNOW...
...I'M THE HORRIBLE ONE...
...BECAUSE I'M DECEIVING EVERYBODY...

펄럭
SHFWOOSH
?!
FSHAAA
HOHOHOH


YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO WANDER ABOUT AIMLESSLY.
I CAN'T TELL THEM. NEVER!
I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS...

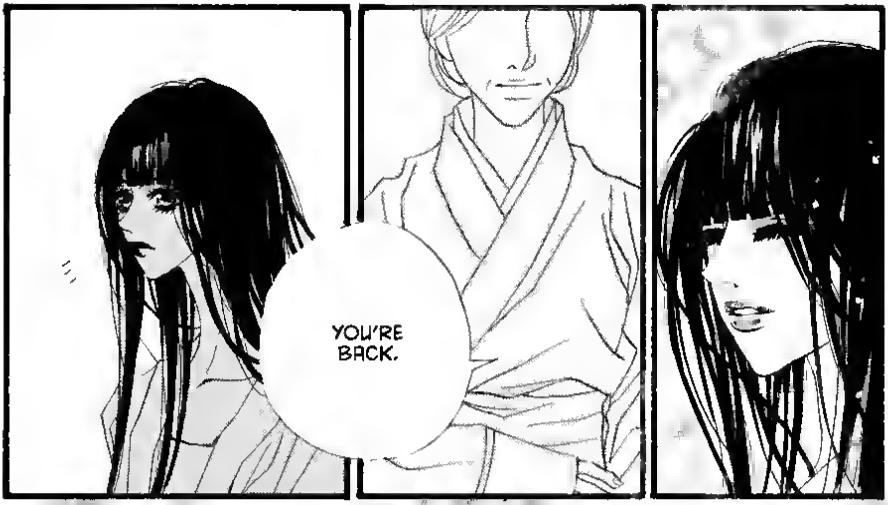
...THAT I AM...
...A PHONY BRIDE...
싸
FSHAAAA
아앙아아..

WOULD YOU TAKE ME TO THE OTHER SIDE?
COME ON BOARD.
덜컹
THNK

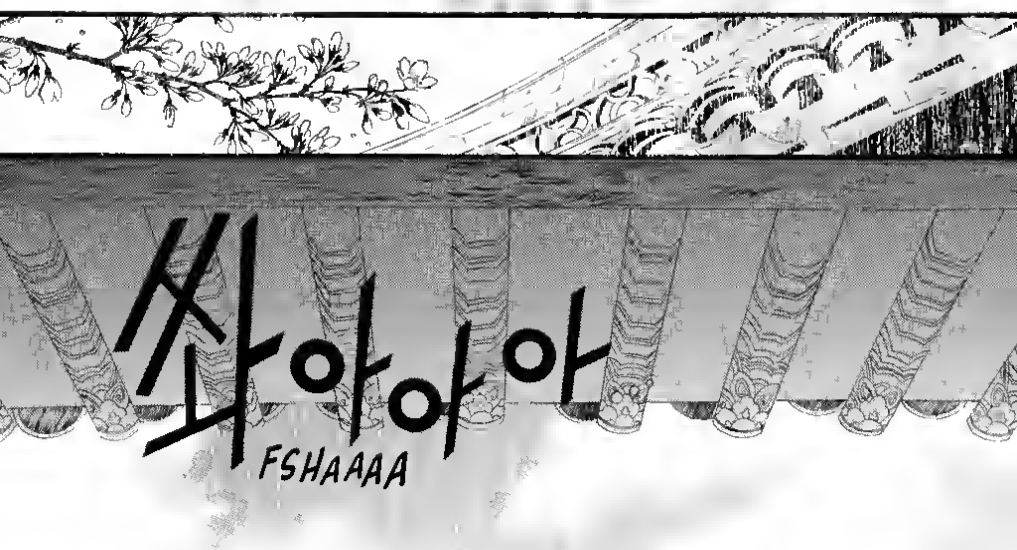
SPISSH
ARE YOU TRAVELING?
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME HERE?
SPISSH
YES, I'M JUST TRAVELING AROUND.
ANYWAYS... SO MANY OTHER PLACES ARE DRY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S PLENTY OF WATER HERE.
YES, INDEED.

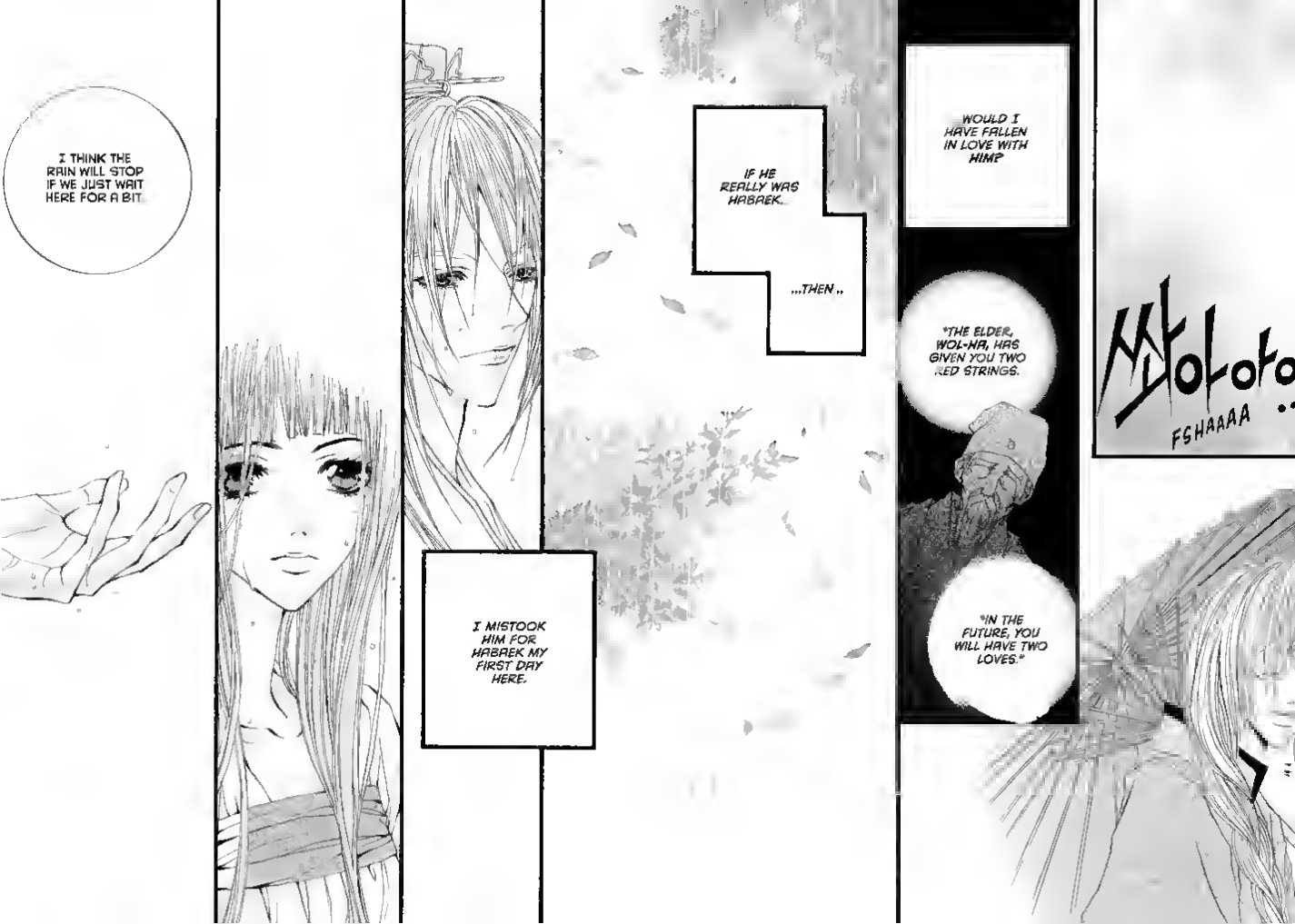
WE'RE UNDER HABAEK-NIM'S PROTECTION.
I SEE.
SPISSH
SPISSH
SORH, ARE YOU COMING BACK FROM THE MARKET?
YES, I AM
酒

덜커
TNNK
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
SURE THING.
SOAH!
SOAH!
탁 탁 탁 탁
THMP THMP THMP THMP
OKAY, I WILL.
PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU NEXT TIME!



YES...
I'M BACK.




I THINK THE RAIN WILL STOP IF WE JUST WAIT HERE FOR A BIT.
I MISTOOK HIM FOR HABAEK MY FIRST DAY HERE.
IF HE REALLY WAS HABAEK...
...THEN..
WOULD I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM?
"THE ELDER, WOL-HA, HAS GIVEN YOU TWO RED STRINGS.
"IN THE FUTURE, YOU WILL HAVE TWO LOVES."
FSHAAAA

SOAH-NIM...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
.....
AH... TAE-EUL-JIN-IN-NIM. WE WERE JUST WAITING HERE FOR A WHILE UNTIL THE RAIN STOPPED.
WELL... YOU'RE ALL WET. I WILL ESCORT YOU, SOAH-NIM. ARE YOU OKAY?
AH, YES. I AM.
WELL, WELL! LET'S GO, THEN.
BRUSH!

WHISPER
FOCUS... OTHERWISE YOU'LL LOSE AGAIN.
HWK
FSHAAAA

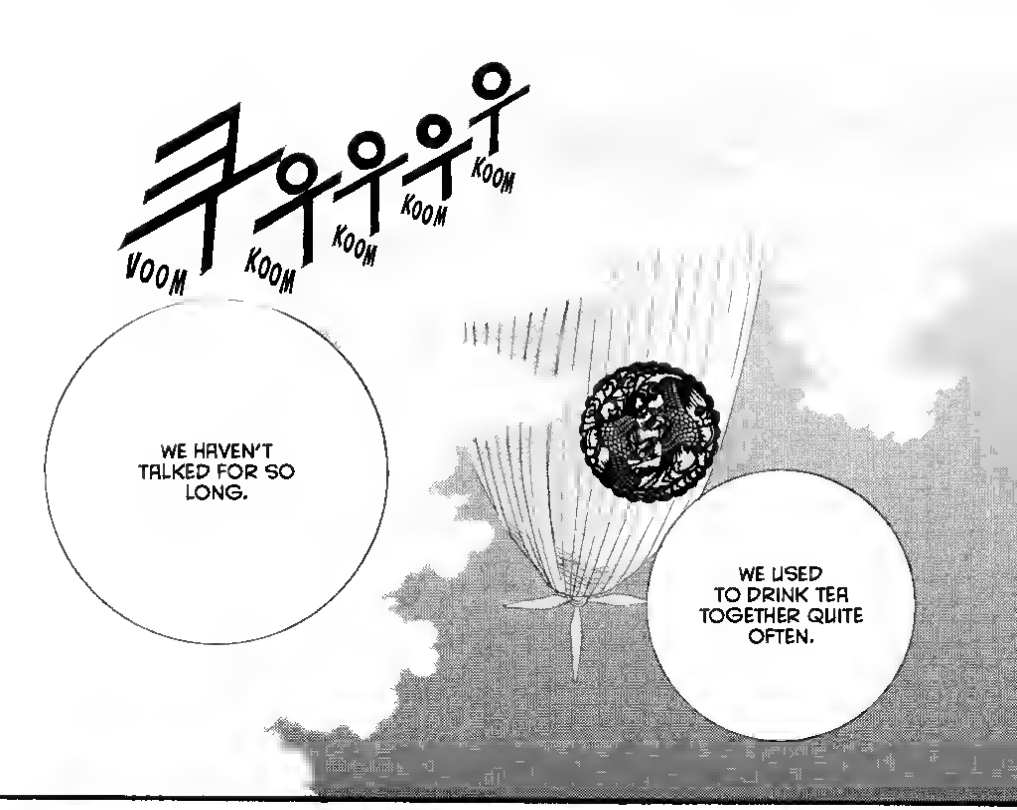
SEE, THE RAIN IS SLOWING DOWN. IT'LL STOP SOON.
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD. IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
WELL...
...ACTUALLY... LAST NIGHT, MUI TOLD ME TO GO BACK HOME.
HE SAID THAT *HIS* WORDS ARE *HABAEK'S* WORDS. WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HA HA! OF COURSE...

...IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON.
?!

저벅
TOKK
저벅
TOKK
저벅
TOKK
저벅
TOKK
COME IN, MUI.

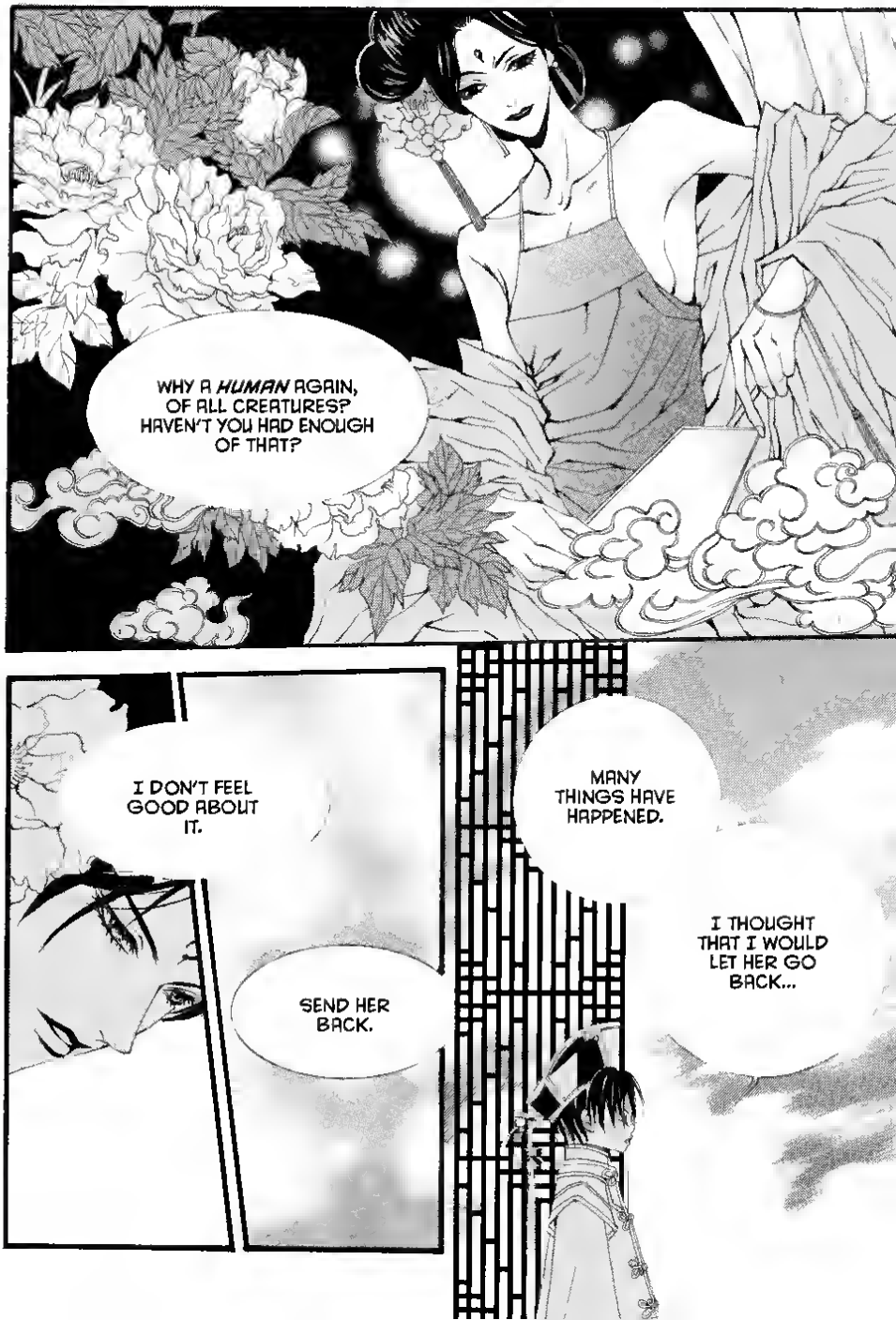
NO...

...SHOULD I ADDRESS YOU AS HABAEK?


VOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
WE HAVEN'T TALKED FOR SO LONG.
WE USED TO DRINK TEA TOGETHER QUITE OFTEN.

NOW THAT I'M SITTING WITH YOU LIKE THIS, IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BACK IN THOSE DAYS AGAIN... AND IT FEELS VERY NICE.

MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEN... FOR YOU AND ME BOTH.


WHY A *HUMAN* AGAIN, OF ALL CREATURES? HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH OF THAT?
I DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT.
SEND HER BACK.
MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.
I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD LET HER GO BACK...

...I'M DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH HER.
BUT I COULDN'T.
BECAUSE .
"DEEPLY IN LOVE"...

I GUESS HE'S REALLY CHANGED, TO SAY SUCH A THING.
HEH HEH/ "DEEPLY IN LOVE"...?
...
THEN, AS A MOTHER, I MUST HELP HIM.

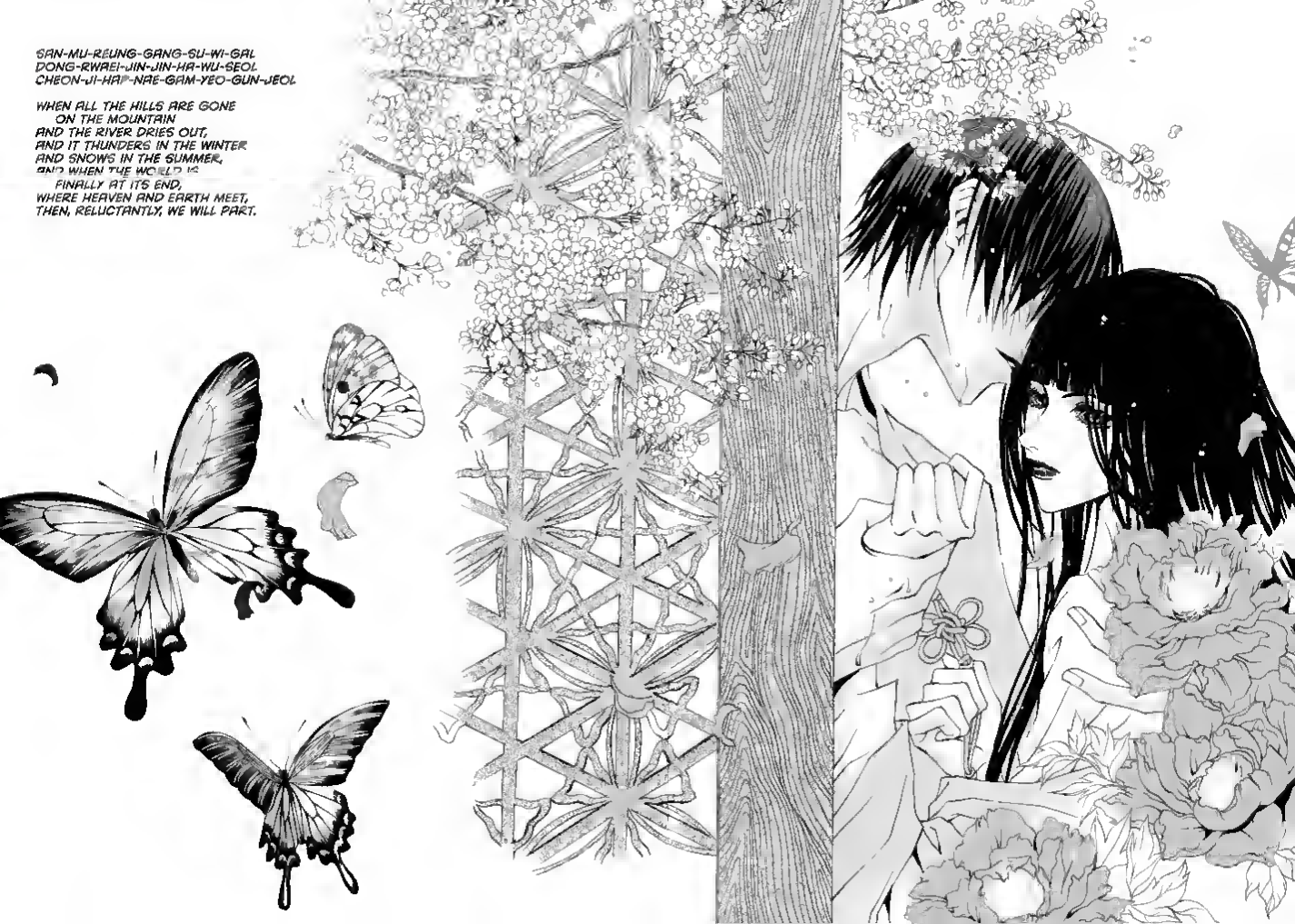
"OF COURSE... IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON.
DON'T BELIEVE IT.
DON'T *EVER* LISTEN TO HIM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT HABAEK TO LET HIM STAY HERE.
NOBODY REALLY KNOWS WHAT HE'S UP TO. AND I REALLY DON'T LIKE HIM. YOU SHOULDN'T MINGLE WITH HIM.
BUT--
"IF YOU DOUBT ME, ASK THE OTHERS."

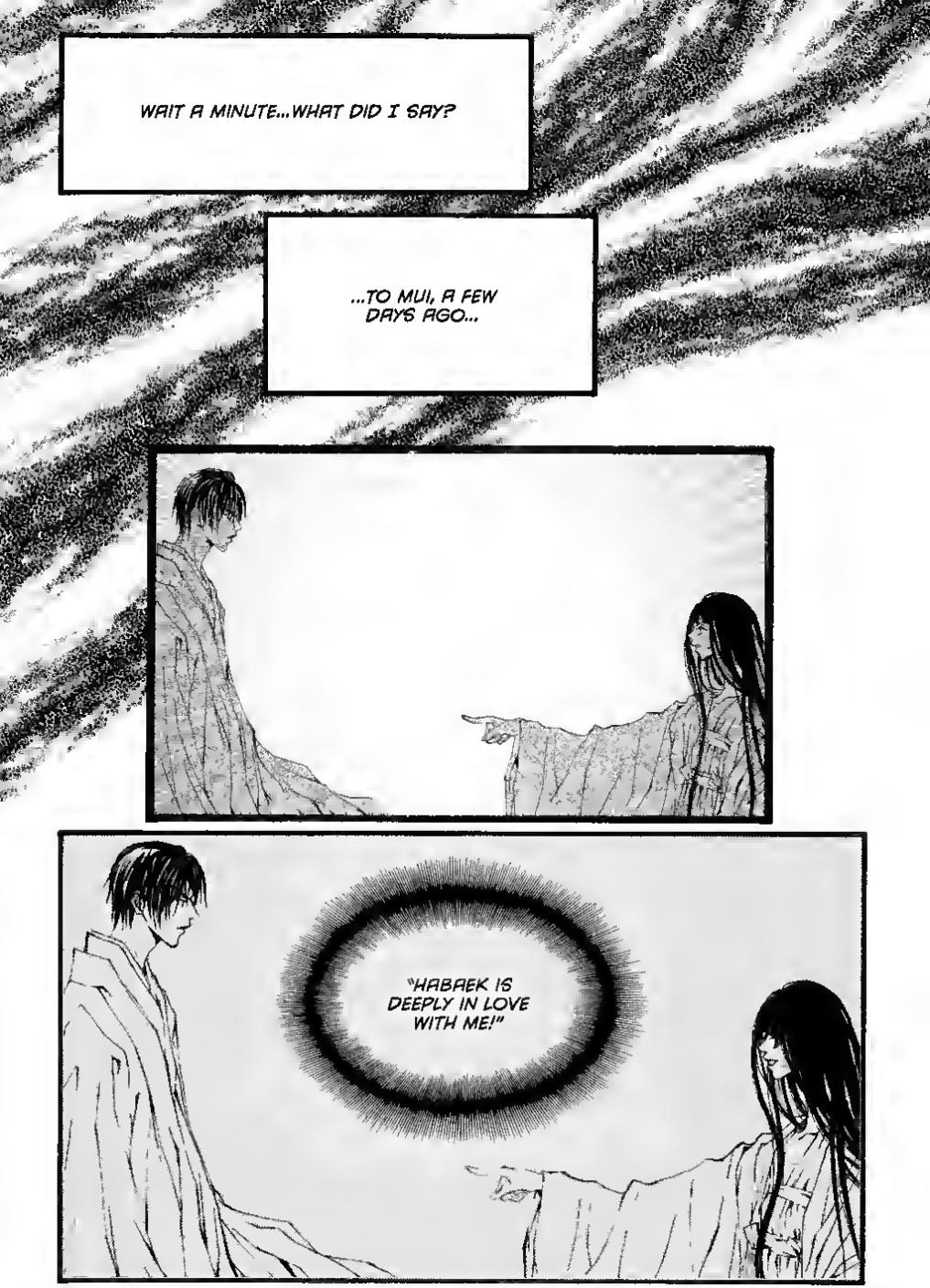
WAS HE TEASING ME, THEN?
BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE AT ALL!
HAVE I EVER SEEN MUI DURING THE DAY?
NO. AND HAVE I SEEN HABAEK AND MUI TOGETHER?

IF WHAT HE SAID WAS TRUE...
...IS EVERYBODY TRYING TO DECEIVE ME?
WAS THAT IMAGE THAT I SAW A LIE, TOO?
"MY NAME IS MUI."
RIGHT. IF THEY ARE THE SAME PERSON...
...THEN HABAEK SHOULD HAVE THAT SAME TATTOO MUI HAS.

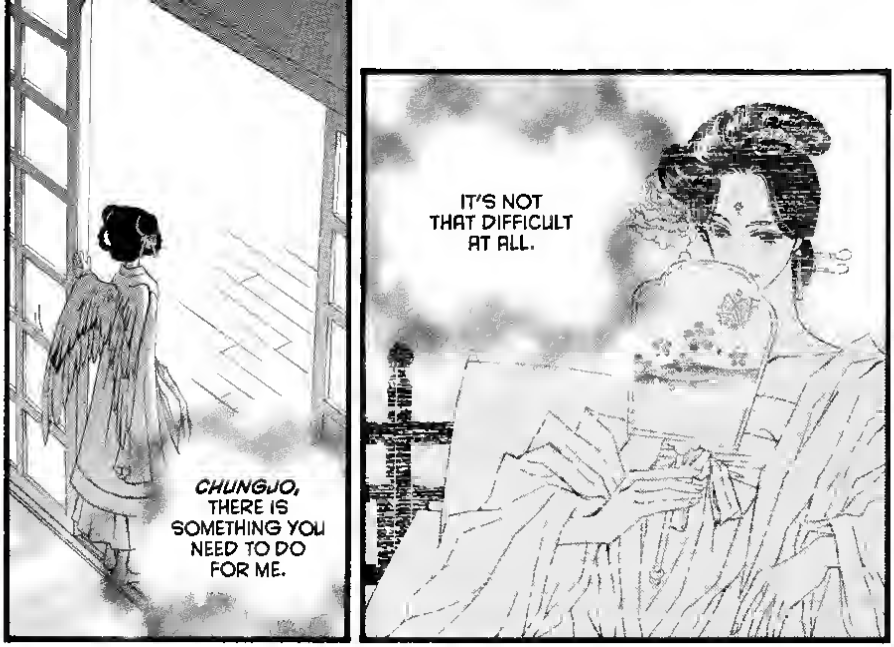
BUT HOW DO I CHECK THAT?
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY... I HAVE TO JUST...
...I HAVE TO UNDRESS THEM...?
JOLT
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, HABAEK-NIM?
SUD-DENLY, I FEEL CHILLS...

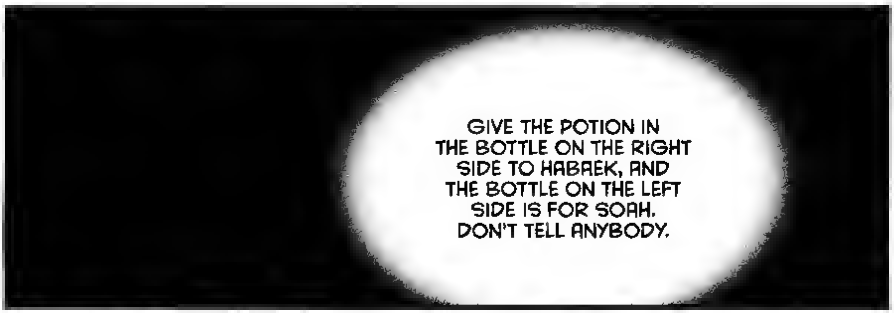
SANGYA
A-OK-YEO-GUN-SANG-JI
JANG-MYEONG-MU-JEOL-SWAEI
I'VE PRAYED TO HEAVEN
EVER SINCE I MET YOU,
THAT WE'LL LIVE FOR A LONG TIME,
AND OUR HEARTS WILL NEVER CHANGE.
福

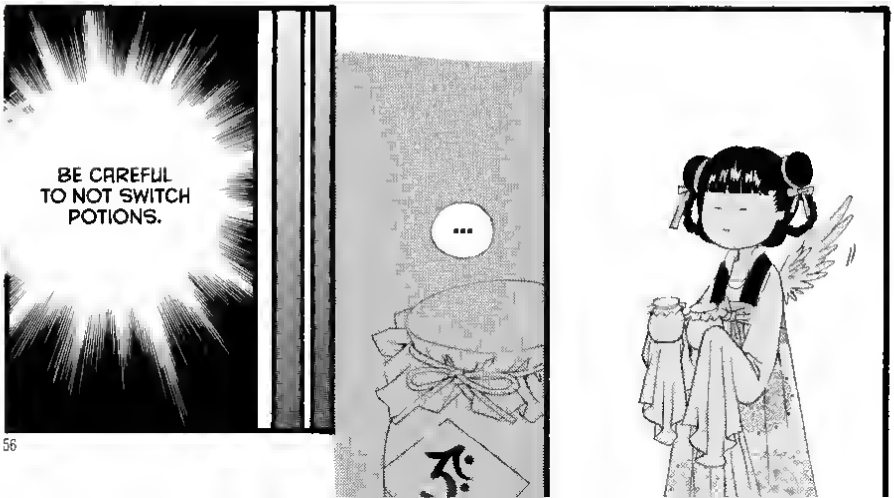

SAN-MU-REUNG-GANG-SU-WI-GAL
DONG-RWAEI-JIN-JIN-HA-WU-SEOL
CHEON-UI-HAE-NAE-GAM-YEO-GUN-JEOL
WHEN ALL THE HILLS ARE GONE
ON THE MOUNTAIN
AND THE RIVER DRIES OUT,
AND IT THUNDERS IN THE WINTER
AND SNOWS IN THE SUMMER,
FINALLY AT ITS END,
WHERE HEAVEN AND EARTH MEET,
THEN, RELUCTANTLY, WE WILL PART.


WAIT A MINUTE...WHAT DID I SAY?
...TO MUI, A FEW DAYS AGO...
"HABAEK IS DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH ME!"

.....
.....
.....!!!!!!!!!!
NO!
NO WAY!
THEY CAN'T BE
THE SAME
PERSON!!
파닥
FWIP
파닥
FWIP
파다다
FWUPPA
FWIP!
FWIPPA
TPP
펄럭
FWWUPP


CHUNGJO, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU NEED TO DO FOR ME.
IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT AT ALL.


GIVE THE POTION IN THE BOTTLE ON THE RIGHT SIDE TO HABAEK, AND THE BOTTLE ON THE LEFT SIDE IS FOR SOAH. DON'T TELL ANYBODY.


BE CAREFUL TO NOT SWITCH POTIONS.
...

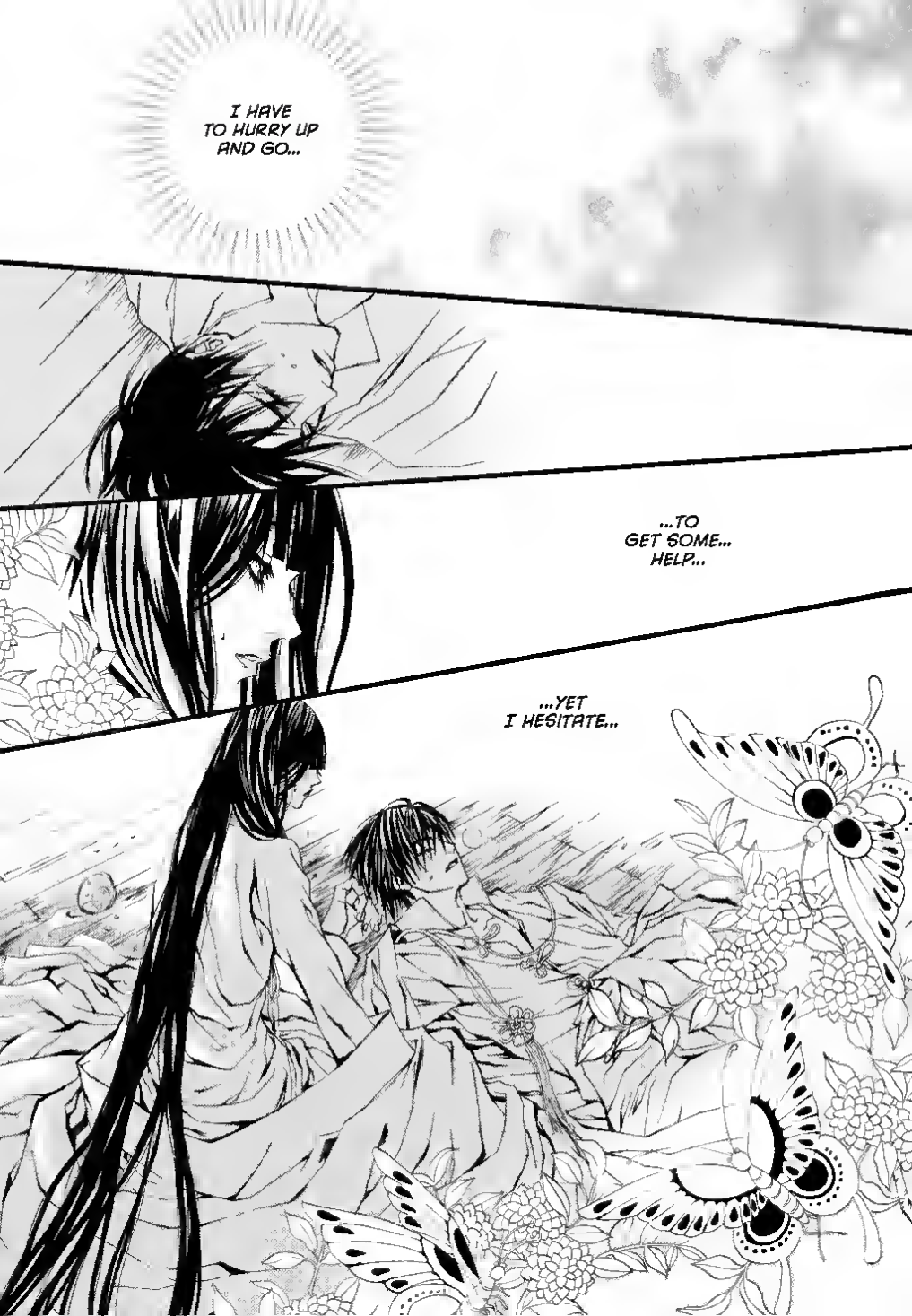
멈칫
FREEZE
.....
SHE FORGOT.
?
← BIRD BRAIN
꿀꺽꿀꺽
GLUP GLUP GLUP
SHE POURS AWAY...
찌르르
ZEE ZWEE
찌르르..
ZEE ZWEE
REGARDLESS OF THE OBSTACLES...
...I REALLY NEED TO SEE IF HABAEK HAS A TATTOO
I DON'T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT MUI'S TATTOO LOOKS LIKE, THOUGH...
...BUT THERE SURE WAS A TATTOO...

SAAAY... HABAEK'S A CHILD, SO IT WON'T BE DIFFICULT, BUT...
...HOW AM I GOING TO SEE MUI'S TATTOO?
"I JUST KNOCKED OVER THE WATER!
"OOPS! I'M SORRY! I'LL WASH YOUR CLOTHES! HERE, TAKE THEM OFF RIGHT NOW!"
.....
LET'S NOT.
OKAY, SAY HABAEK AND MUI ARE THE SAME PERSON.
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A GOD'S WORLD, THAT JUST DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
BUT IT WON'T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE EVEN IF THEY ARE THE SAME PERSON...

...BOTH HABAEK AND MUI ALWAYS GET MAD AT ME WHENEVER THEY SEE ME...
HABAEK AND MUI?
WELL... I DON'T KNOW WHERE HABAEK IS...
...BUT I KNOW WHERE MUI IS, THOUGH. I SAW HIM IN THE STUDY IN THE EAST WING A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
WHY BOTH OF THEM, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NOTHING. REALLY. THANK YOU.
I'M JUST GOING TO ASK THEM MYSELF.
I'LL BUY WHATEVER ANSWER I GET.

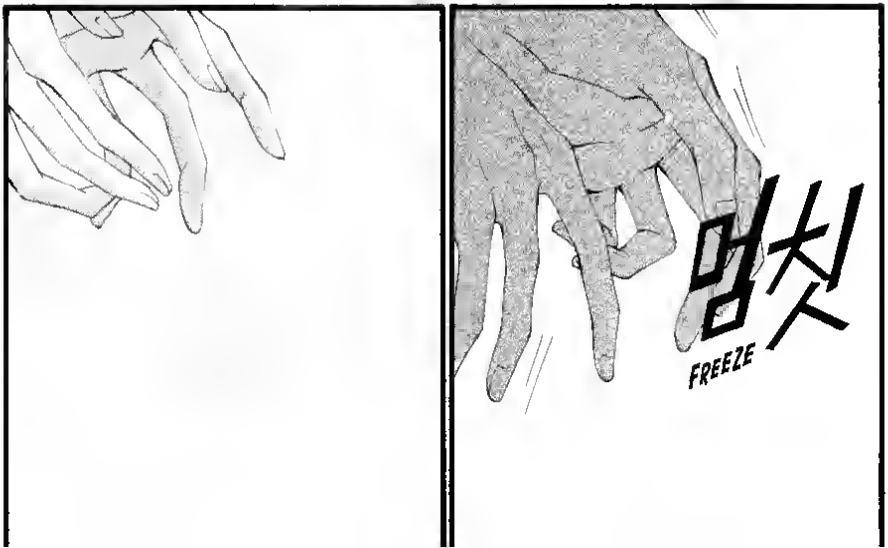
MUI, ARE YOU HERE?
CAN I COME IN?
MUI?

HEY!
WAKE UP!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
NO! OH, NO!
HIS WHOLE BODY IS BURNING UP!


I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND GO...
...TO GET SOME... HELP...
...YET I HESITATE...

I CAN DO IT NOW.

I ONLY NEED TO SEE HIS TATTOO, THEN...



"MUI'S WORDS ARE
HABAEK'S WORDS" MEANS...

...THAT MUI IS MY HUSBAND...

WHICH TRUTH DO I WANT?!
OF COURSE, IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON.
DO I SECRETLY WANT IT TO BE TRUE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN AWAY?
OR...
...DO I WANT IT TO BE A LIE?

WSHAAA
WOOSH

NN...
HNN...
바스락
SHFF

?!
YOU...

AH...I...
I WAS JUST
PASSING BY...
AND...SO...IT'S NOT
LIKE I WAS GOING
TO STRIP YOU
DOWN...
UH...
팟
WSHH
덥석
SNNCH
헉
HWIK

MM...

DON'T GO ANYWHERE NOW...

...NAKBIN...
AT THAT MOMENT, MY HEAD FELT LIKE A BIG BLANK SHEET OF PAPER... I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING AT ALL.

Bride of the Water God

"A man giving a lady a comb as a gift means he's proposing for marriage."

GET UP,
LET'S GO
BACK...

...NAKBIN.

THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
THU-THUMP
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
I MUST BE CRAZY...
DON'T GO ANYWHERE NOW...

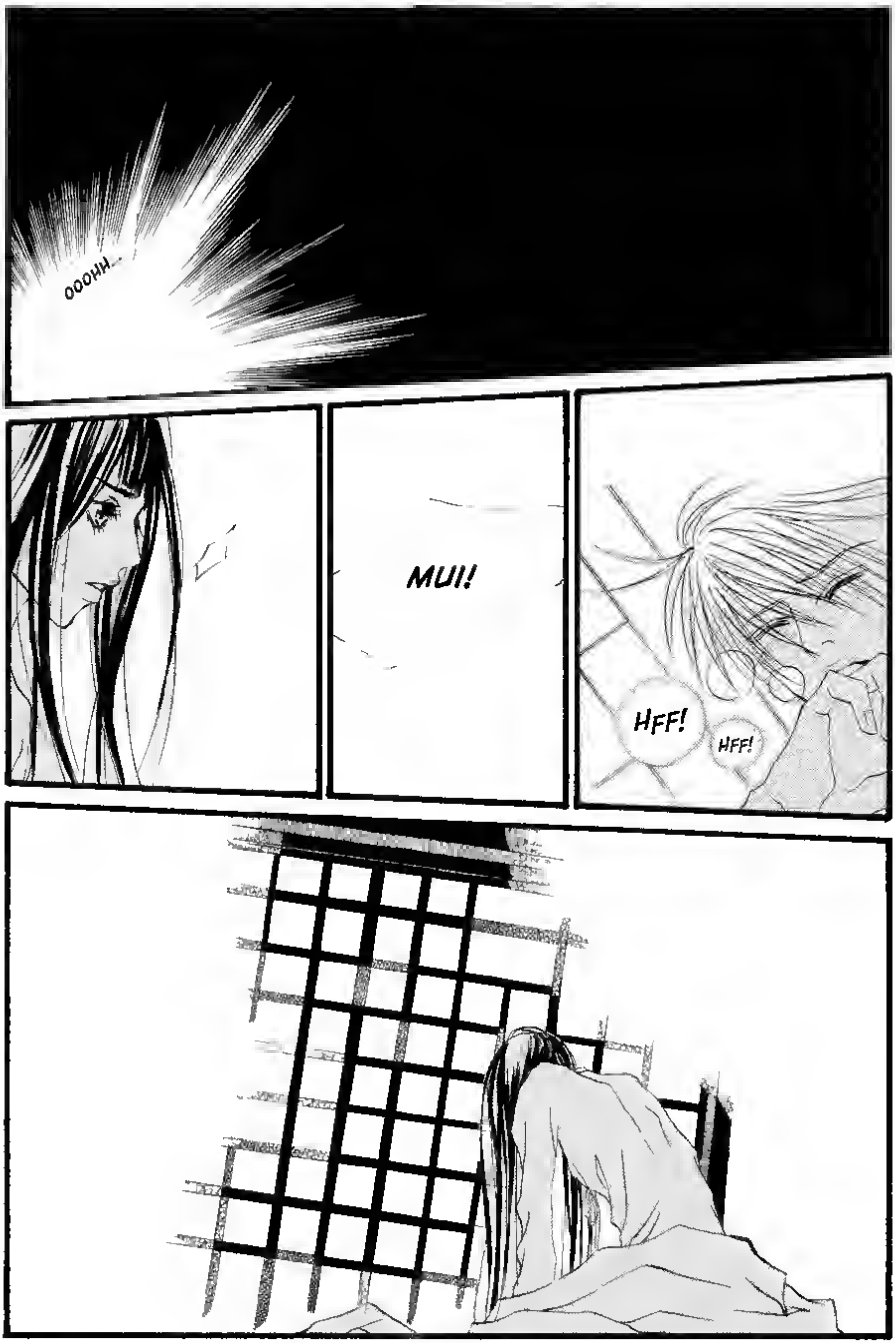
...NAKBIN...
FWMMP

NAKBIN...

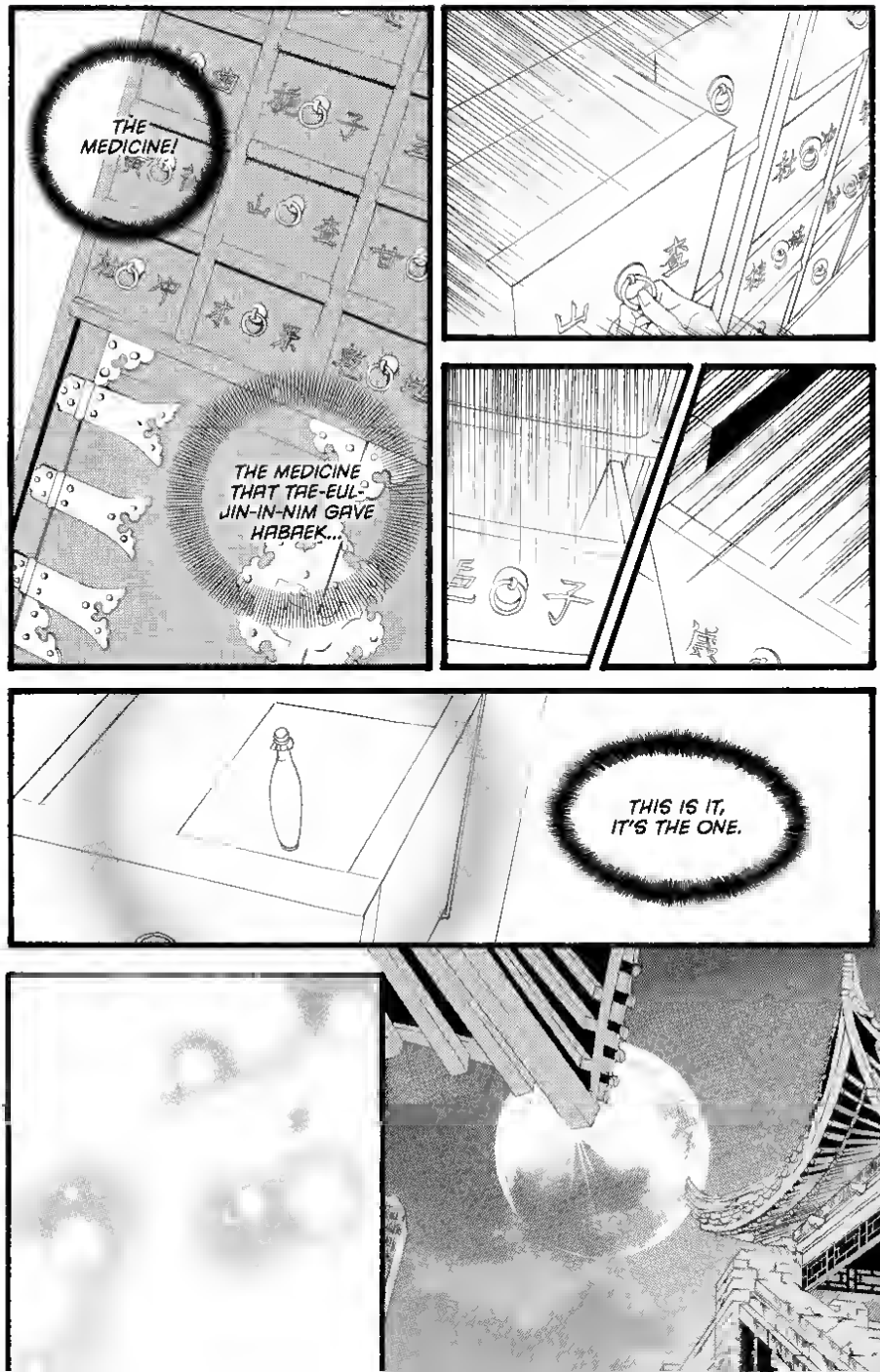
"WHAT I KNOW IS THAT HABAEK'S FIRST BRIDE'S NAME WAS NAKBIN.
"HABAEK LOVED HER VERY MUCH...
"...BUT UNFORTUNATELY SHE DIED TOO SOON."

THEN MUI IS MISTAKING ME FOR NAKBIN?
BUT...
...SHE WAS HABAEK'S BRIDE...
THEN HOW?

THU-
THUMP
THU-
THUMP
THU-
THUMP
THU-
THUMP
MUI...
...YOU
ARE...


OOOHH...
MUI!
HFF!
HFF!

탁
TAK
탁
TAK
탁
TAK
탁
TAK
...TO THE TIME HABAEK COLLAPSED.
TAE-EUL-JIN-IN-NIM!
IT'S SIMILAR...
...
NOBODY'S HERE. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?


THE MEDICINE!
THE MEDICINE THAT TAE-EUL-JIN-IN-NIM GAVE HABAEK...
THIS IS IT, IT'S THE ONE.

MUI/
TRY TO GET UP.
TAKE THIS.
OOH...
DRIBBLE

흐윽
꼴깍
GLLP

HOW IS HE?
IS HE ANY BETTER?
...
FWIP
HE'LL BE FINE NOW.
YOUR FIRST AID INSTINCTS WERE EXCELLENT.

*SANGJIGUYEOPCHO APHRODISIAC
LOOKS LIKE IT'S A KIND OF SANGJIGU-YEOPCHO*.
I THINK SOMEONE POURED A POTION INTO HIS DRINK.
.....
THE AMOUNT OF THE POTION WAS TOO MUCH, AND HE HAD SOME RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS.
I-IT WASN'T ME... NEVER!
I NEVER HAD A DIRTY THOUGHT! I WASN'T GOING TO STRIP HIM DOWN AFTER I GAVE HIM THE MEDICINE!!
HA! HA! I DON'T SUSPECT YOU, SO DON'T WORRY.
IT'S SOMEHOW TELLING, THOUGH...

I THINK I KNOW WHO DID THIS.
IT WILL BE *DAWN* SOON.
I'LL TAKE HIM.
YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
WAIT A MINUTE. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.
HOW MUCH OF WHAT YOU TOLD ME IS TRUE?

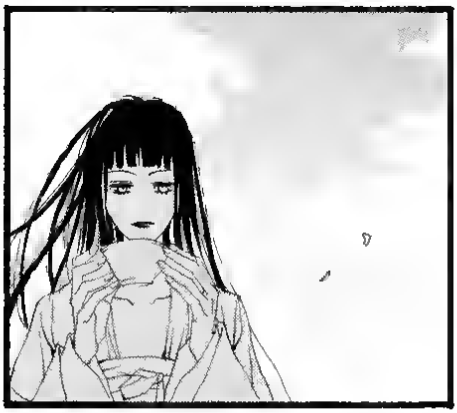
THIS PERSON RIGHT NOW-- IS THIS MUI OR HABAEK?
YOU DOUBT ME NOW?
DID SOMEBODY TELL YOU *NOT* TO TRUST WHAT I SAY?
OBVIOUSLY, IT MUST'VE BEEN *MURAH* WHO TOLD YOU NOT TO... RIGHT?
BUT *SHE* IS THE ONE YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH.
SHE HAS FEELINGS FOR HABAEK.
SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR HER TO LIKE OR HELP YOU.

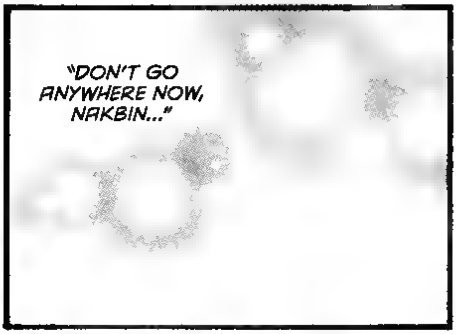
AND ABOUT WHAT I SAID...? I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
SEE, JUST BECAUSE I COMPARE THE WOMAN TO A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER DOESN'T MEAN THE WOMAN IS THE FLOWER.
IT CAN BE HABAEK--
--OR NOT.
WHAT THE HECK IS HE TALKING ABOUT?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE ANYMORE.

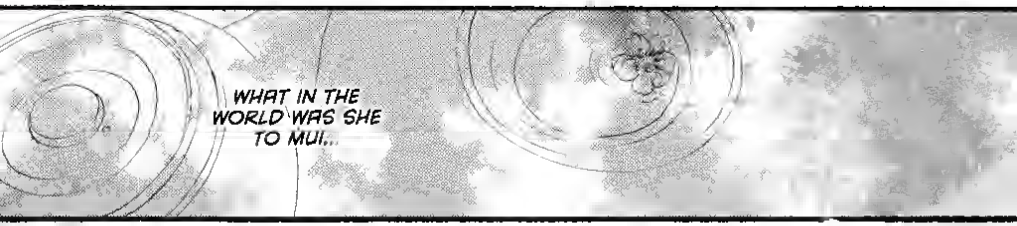
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GETTING UP.
HFF!
SHWUFF
ARE YOU BETTER, NOW? MUI? HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
.....
NAKBIN?
?
.....
!!!!!!!!!!

OH, NO! STOP IT, TAE-EUL-JIN-IN-NIM! HE'S STILL A PATIENT--
KRAKK
...?!
!!

콰아아아
FSHHAAAA




"DON'T GO ANYWHERE NOW, NAKBIN..."

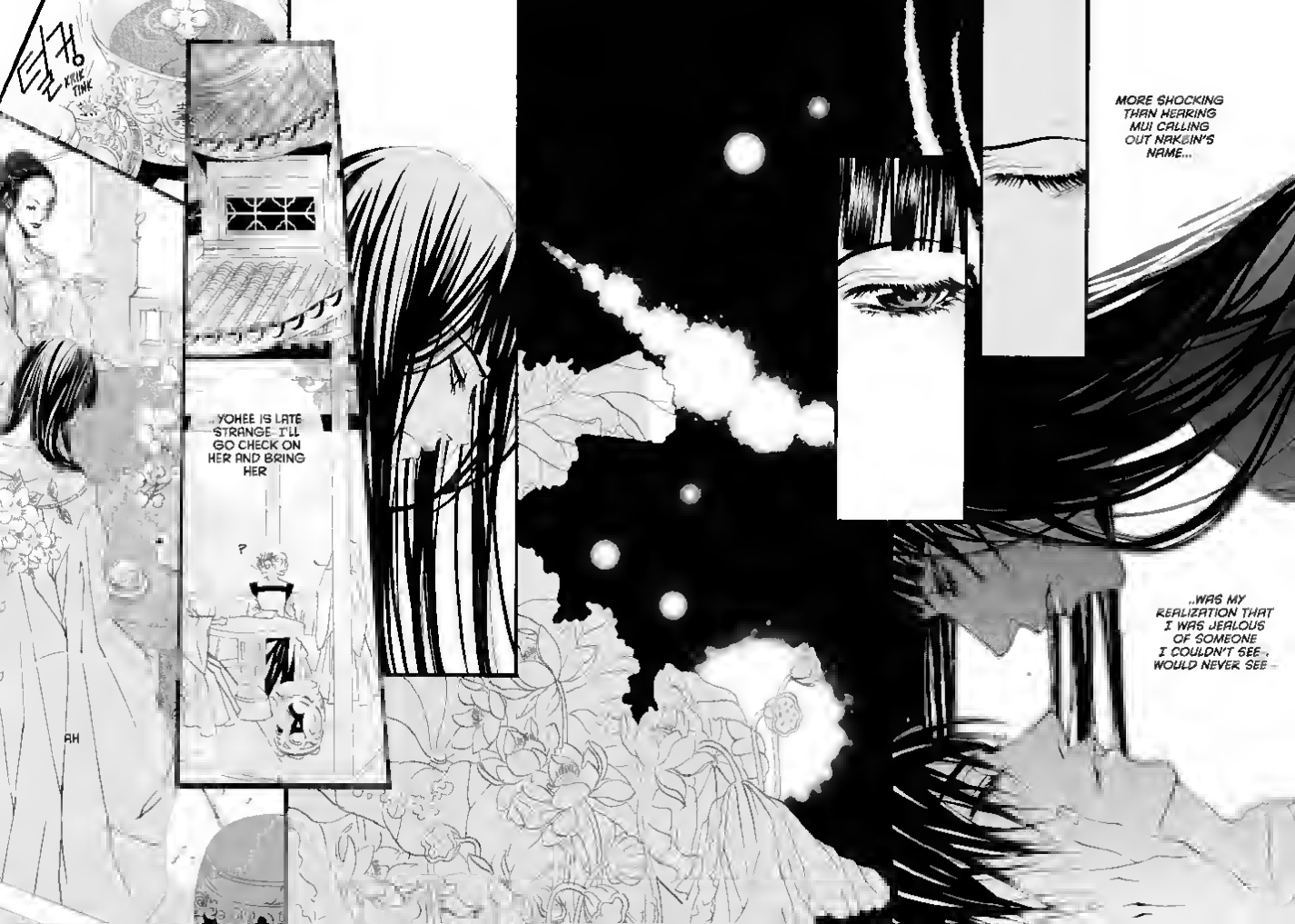

WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS SHE TO MUI...

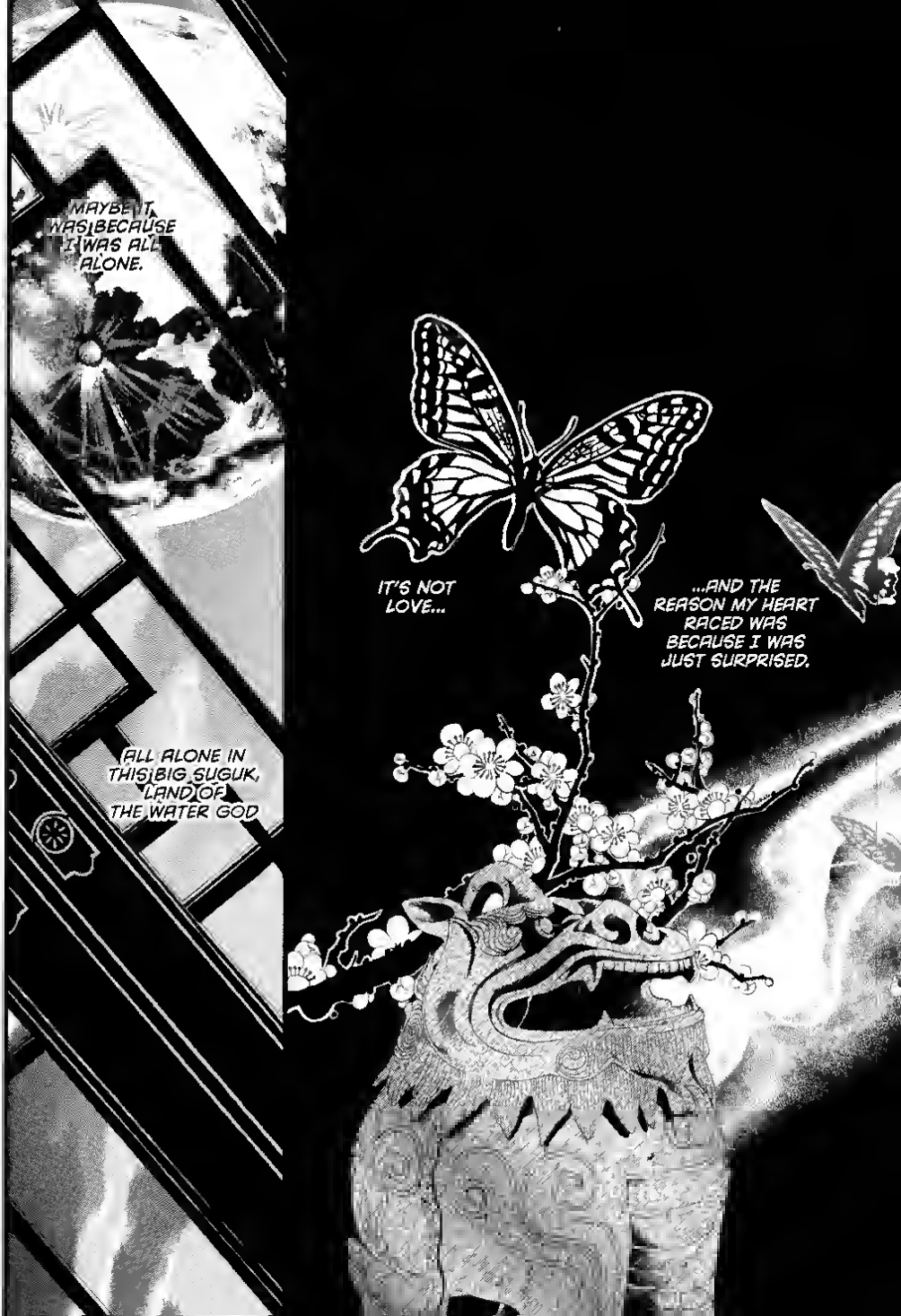
...FOR HIM TO BE SO DESPERATELY CALLING HER NAME LIKE THAT?

UNCONSCIOUS, HE STARTED CALLING OUT "NAKBIN"...!
ISN'T NAKBIN THE NAME OF HIS COUSIN'S WIFE?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP THEY HAD BEFORE, BUT HE'S TOO SHAMELESS.
HOW DARE HE HARBOR FEELINGS FOR HIS COUSIN'S WIFE?
...?
I DON'T KNOW IF HABAEK KNOWS ABOUT THIS...BUT IF IT'S TRUE, THEN I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HABAEK.
AH!
TINKK
FLINCH

NOW
I KNOW.
YOU LIKE
MUI, DON'T
YOU?

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I LIKE WHO?
HOW... HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING!
I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW POOR HABAEK DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT ALL...
...AND YOU'RE TELLING ME I LIKE MUIP HOW-C YOU...
I...
...I AM...
"NAKBIN..."
I AM...
ALL RIGHT! IF YOU DON'T, THEN FINE. WHY'RE YOU BEING SO SENSITIVE?
IS IT TOUCHING YOUR SORE SPOT OR WHAT?
I SAID-- NO.
JUDONG, DON'T ACT LIKE SUCH A FOOL OF COURSE SHE DOESN'T LIKE HIM
IF SHE REALLY DOES, THEN IT'S A TRUE BETRAYAL AGAINST HABAEK

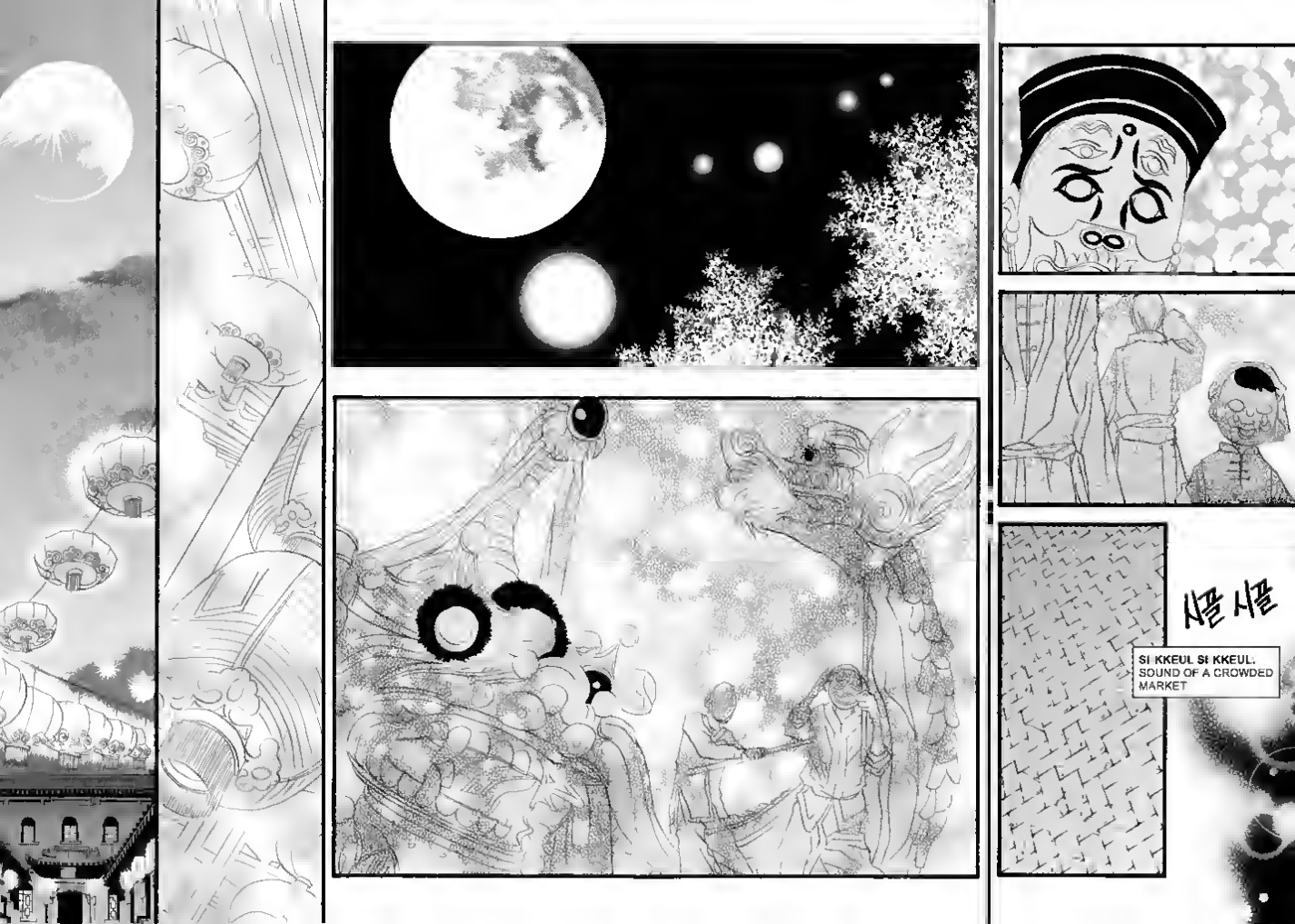

KRIK TINK
..YOHEE IS LATE STRANGE. I'LL GO CHECK ON HER AND BRING HER
?
AH
MORE SHOCKING THAN HEARING MIJI CALLING OUT NAKEIN'S NAME...
..WAS MY REALIZATION THAT I WAS JEALOUS OF SOMEONE I COULDN'T SEE . WOULD NEVER SEE


MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS ALL ALONE.
(ALL ALONE IN THIS BIG SUGUK, LAND OF THE WATER GOD
IT'S NOT LOVE...
...AND THE REASON MY HEART RACED WAS BECAUSE I WAS JUST SURPRISED.

THE NIGHT MARKET?
YES, IT IS QUITE SIMILAR TO A HUMAN NIGHT MARKET. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BEING THAT *NON-HUMAN CREATURES* AND *GODS* GATHER THERE.
I JUST THOUGHT WE COULD ALL GO TOGETHER TO RELAX AND HAVE FUN.
EVERYONE'S BEEN HAVING A TOUGH TIME WITH *SEOWANGMO-NIM* AND OTHER MATTERS.
I DON'T WANT TO.

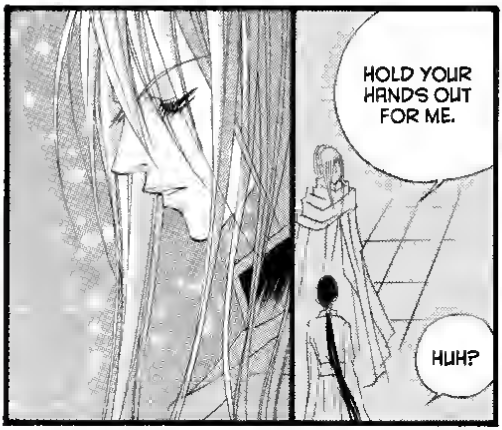
FORGET ABOUT ME. I HATE CROWDED PLACES.
THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT GOING TO SUCH A PLACE. SORA, YOU SHOULDN'T GO EITHER.
HABAEK, COME ON...
WELL, THEN. I CAN'T HELP IT
IT'S RUDE TO FORCE SOMEONE TO GO WHO DOESN'T WANT TO GO. SO WE'LL JUST GO BY OURSELVES, THEN...?
ANYWAY, IT'S *TOO BAD* YOU'RE NOT COMING. MUI SAID HE'S COMING, TOO.

MUI REALLY LIKES ME. HE HAS TO GO WITH ME EVERYWHERE I GO.
YOU JERK.
HOI
GRIN
MUI'S COMING WITH US?
BLUSH
OH, NO! WHAT DO I DO WHEN WE'RE FACE TO FACE? WHAT IF HE REMEMBERS EVERYTHING?


시끌 시끌
SI KKEUL SI KKEUL:
SOUND OF A CROWDED
MARKET

WOW
HURRY UP, SOAH, OR WE'LL LEAVE YOU!
OH, WAIT! DON'T LEAVE ME!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
AM I MISTAKEN?

I THOUGHT THAT BOTH YOU AND HABAEK LOATHED THIS KIND OF PLACE-- AM I WRONG?
WELL... SOMETIMES I...
THIS ISN'T TOO BAD AFTER ALL.
SHHK


HOLD YOUR HANDS OUT FOR ME.
HUH?

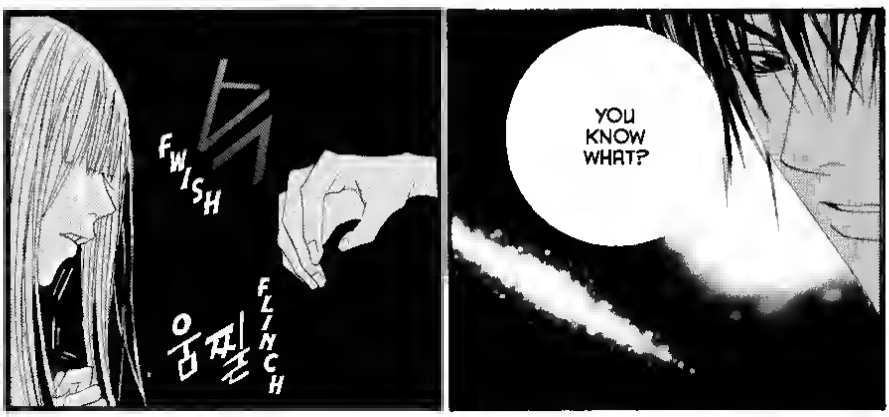
?
TK

IT'S A LITTLE LATE, BUT THIS IS A *WELCOMING GIFT* FOR YOUR ARRIVAL TO SUGUK.

HEY, HUYE?
두근두근
THU-TUMP
THU-TUMP
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE, TOO.
AH! SO WRONG! SEXUAL DISCRIMI NATION!!

I CAN'T FACE HIM.
ANYTHING INTERESTING GOING ON?
AH! MUI?!!
AH...YES... HUYE JUST GAVE ME A GIFT.
PRETTY, HUH? HA HA!

I JUST CAN'T ACT LIKE NOTHING HAP-PENED!!
YOU KNOW, A WELCOMING GIFT FOR MY ARRIVAL TO SUGUK...


FWISH
움찔
FLINCH
YOU KNOW WHAT?

A MAN GIVING A LADY A COMB AS A GIFT MEANS HE'S PROPOSING FOR MARRIAGE.

SOAH!
GURRK!
HURRY UP! WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE YOU HERE!
HURRY UP. GO.
AH...WELL... YES...

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
THAT WAS A LITTLE SCARY...

LOOK, HABAEK. IT'S A HARDY CLUSTER.
DO YOU KNOW WHY PEOPLE CALL THIS THE *FAREWELL FLOWER?*
THE FLOWERS AND LEAVES OF HARDY CLUSTERS CAN NEVER EXIST AT THE SAME TIME.
WHEN THE LEAVES FINALLY WITHER AND DIE, THEN THE FLOWERS START BLOOMING.
THEY LONG FOR EACH OTHER SO MUCH THAT THEY SHOOT OUT BUDS AND BLOOM FLOWERS...
...BUT, AS TIME PASSES, EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN NEVER MEET, THEY STILL HOLD ON TO THAT *LONGING* FOR EACH OTHER.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BEAUTIFUL? IT'S LIKE THEY'RE TWO LOVERS, LONGING FOR EACH OTHER EVEN AFTER DEATH.

WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT UNLUCKY FLOWER?
WE WILL NEVER BE APART, ANYWAY.

SNNCH
YOU...
YOU ARE
HUMAN, AREN'T
YOU?
LET GO
OF ME!
GYAAH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OWW!
WHSH-
HOW'S THIS ANY OF *YOUR* BUSINESS?!

SHE IS
MY WIFE.

HEH HEH HEH! WHAT? YOUR WIFE?
THE GIRL'S FACE SAYS THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL.
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
슬금 슬금
SLINK SLINK
I CAN'T JUST LET YOU *TAKE HER* WITHOUT PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT!
THERE ARE PLENTY OF FOLKS WHO'LL BUY HUMANS FOR A PRETTY PENNY.
ESPECIALLY HUMAN GIRLS.

THOKK
KNNCH
KNNCH
KNNCH
YAAAH!
?
SSPSHAAA
FSHHAAAA
!!

파파파
SPOOSHHAAA
EEYIIEEE!
OHH! STOP !!

OKAY!
I WAS WRONG! I WAS WRONG!!
YOU CAN HAVE HER!

파직
VZZZ
파직
VZZZ
파직
VZZZ
파앙!
THUMP
AAHHK!

STOP IT! YOU'LL KILL HIM!!
HWAH?
빠직
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT ARE YOU?!
SIGH!
AH!
WHO DO YOU THINK CAUSED ALL THIS FUSS?
IT HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU WERE WANDERING AROUND AT NIGHT ALONE!
OKAY! ENOUGH!

I SEE
THAT YOU'RE VERY
POWERFUL, SO...
GYAH!
SHOVE
SHUKK

FWA-
THMMP
YAAIIEEEE!

파닥
FWIP
.....
FWIP
파닥
KHAH HAA!
STAY DOWN!
덥썩
FWK KNNCH
FAASH

...MUI... ARE YOU OKAY?
WAKE UP!
I'M SORRY!
I'M SO SORRY! IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ME!
WHSH
SHUT UP.
DON'T CRY... I'M NOT DEAD YET.

THEN, THE BUTTERFLY DISAPPEARED...

YOU DON'T NEED TO *ACT* ANY MORE, GET UP.
.....
SHIFF

HOO!
I THOUGHT I WAS *REALLY* GONNA DIE.

WOMEN ARE FRIGHTENING!

ONCE BLINDED BY THEIR OWN *JEALOUSY*, THEY CAN DO ANYTHING, RIGHT?
SHUT UP!

YAIEE!
YES! YES!
SHKSHKAAAH
WELL, I FOUND OUT SOMETHING VALUABLE ANYWAY.
"WIFE"... I NEVER THOUGHT HABAEK WOULD SAY THAT.
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL SO UNEASY.
I KNEW WHAT PEOPLE WERE CALLING ME.

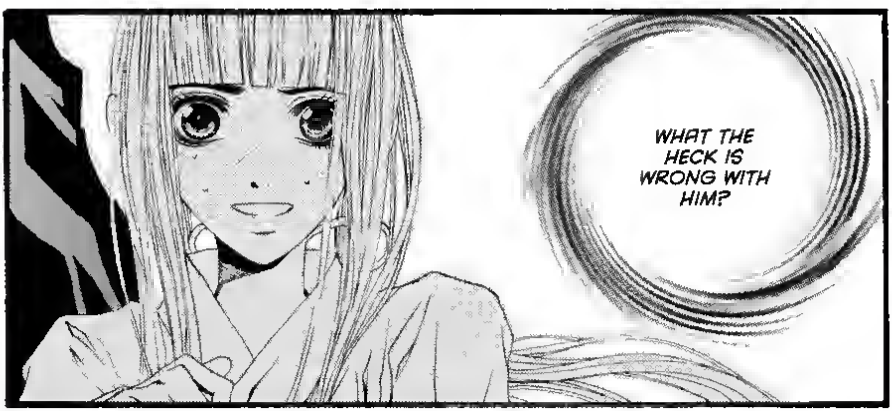
"MURAH, THE ENCHANTRESS OF CHEONGYO MOUNTAIN.
"PLEASE MEET HIM, MURAH-NIM. THIS IS HABAEK-NIM."
IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME BECAUSE I WAS SO USED TO IT.
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE THE "GODDESS OF CHEONGYO MOUNTAIN," RIGHT, MURAH?

WELCOME TO SUGUK.
SINCE THEN, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I'VE YEARNED FOR...
...EVEN WHEN YOU CHOSE NAKBIN INSTEAD OF ME...
...EVEN WHEN YOU WERE DROWNING IN DEEP DESPERATION, INCONSOLABLE AFTER YOU LOST HER...
...BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE NEXT.

I WAS THE ONE WHO'D ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR YOU...
I'M VERY SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE STAYED BY YOUR SIDE.
HAHH/ I GOT HURT BECAUSE I LET MY GUARD DOWN.
...SO WHY NOT ME?

ARE YOU OKAY, SOAH-NIM?
AH, YES...I'M FINE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASKING, HUYE...
WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL HERE.
YES...?
FWSH
FWOOSH
GYAH!!

AH...HEY... I JUST SAID THAT I WASN'T HURT...



BRIDE of the WATER GOD

"Mui mistook me for Nakbin?"

"CHEON-ANG-YU-SU,
CHEON-GANG-WOL...
"...MAN-LI-MU-UN,
MAN-LI-CHEON.
"ON A THOUSAND RIVERS, THOUSANDS OF MOONS REFLECT, AND THE CLOUDS ARE ON THE RIVER, NOW THE WHOLE WORLD IS THE SKY."
WHAT A LOVELY NIGHT.

HE SUDDENLY LIFTED ME UP WITHOUT EVEN ASKING.

AND SO...

...I GOT DRAGGED ALL AROUND.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM!
IT'S DARK.
IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS A BOAT WHEN I STEPPED IN.
IS HE GOING TO KIDNAP ME?
휘오오오
HWWOOO
IT FEELS LIKE THIS WHOLE PLACE IS ROCKING VERY HARD...
덜컹 덜컹 CREAK CREAK
GREAT, YOU'RE SLEEPING LIKE A BABY...

FWSHH
DON'T... YOU...EVEN... THINK ABOUT ATTACKING ME WHILE I SLEEP.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I'M NOT GOING TO ATTACK YOU!!
SERIOUSLY...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT GOES ON IN HIS HEAD...
I THINK THIS'LL BE A GOOD SPOT.

TWAPP
I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING FANTASTIC.
AH...WELL, DO YOU THINK I CAN SEE IT NEXT TIME?
I DON'T THINK I'M READY YET...
TCHOKK
KOOM
GYAH!

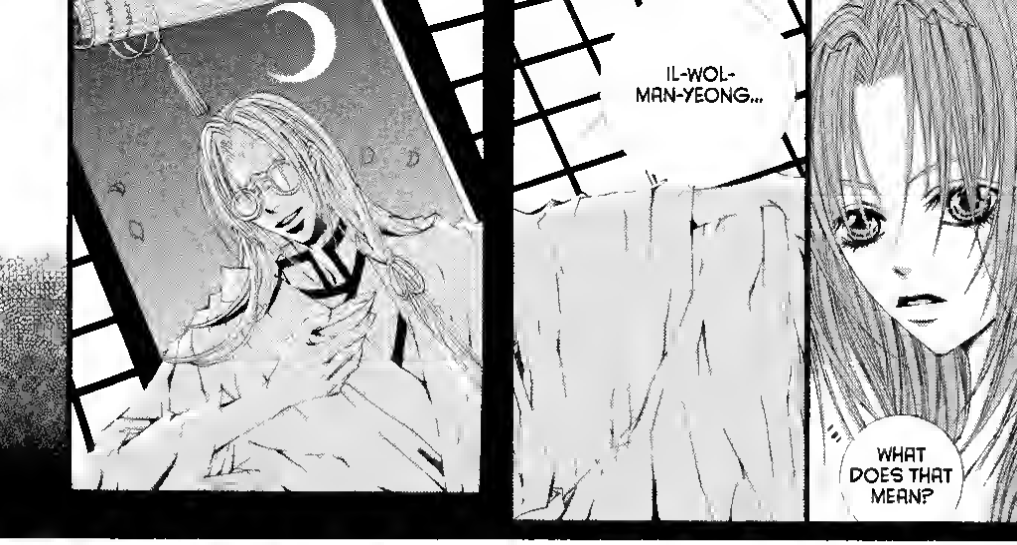
HWWOOSH
GYAAH!
SLIP
HWOOO
!!

飛

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT NO HUMAN CAN EVER SEE IN A LIFETIME.
BEAUTIFUL...
THE SHINING, SILVER RIVER OVER THERE... THAT'S THE CHEON RIVER.
IT'S A SYMBOL OF LOVE... AND AT THE SAME TIME, IT'S A PLACE OF FAREWELLS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO BACK NOW?
MUI?
WHY IS HE SHOWING ME THIS?

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.


IL-WOL-MAN-YEONG...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

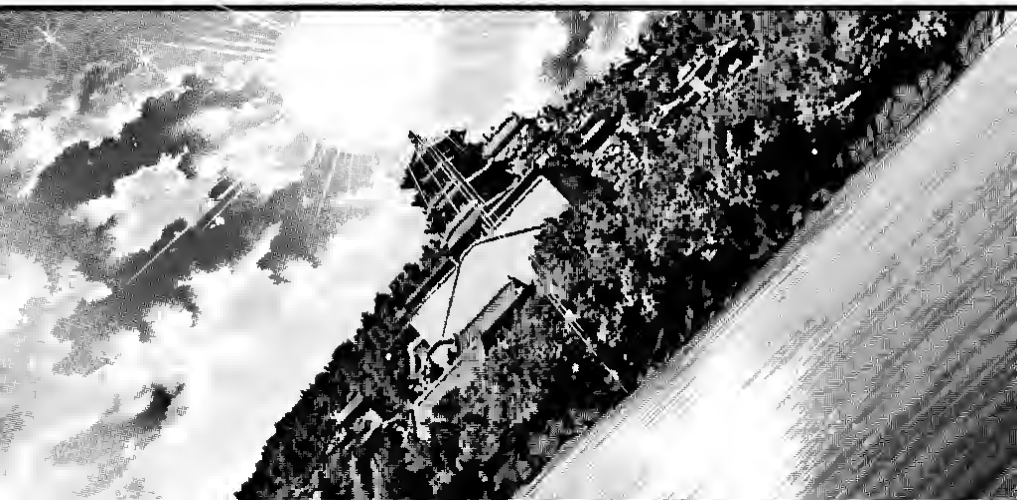
IT MEANS THAT THE REFLECTION OF THE MOON IS EVERYWHERE--IN THE SEA, IN THE STREAMS...
...AND EVEN IN A BOWL, OR IN THE WATER, OR IN THIS SMALL CUP.
I'M NOT SO SURE SHE'LL EVER COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT.
THE REASON THAT THE REFLECTION OF THE MOON IS WHEREVER THERE IS WATER IS BECAUSE...
...THE TRUE MOON IS REALLY IN THE SKY.

YOU... ARE... DRUNK TALKING.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
HABAEK. HUYE. EVERYBODY LEFT ME HERE, AND I'M SO LONELY!
HEY, HUYE! HOW COME YOU'RE OUT HERE BY YOURSELF? WHERE DID YOU LEAVE LADY SOAH AND HABAEK?
HWIK
WHAT GOT INTO HIM?
HUH? NO WAY! THEY'RE UP THERE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM DO THIS.

I HAVE *NEVER* SEEN HIM TAKE SOMEONE UP FOR A RIDE.
HWOOO WOOO WOOO
IF...IF YOU WANT TO LAUGH AT ME, YOU CAN.
HA!
DON'T LAUGH!
YOU SAID I COULD LAUGH, RIGHT?

TAKE MY SHIRT OFF...?
YOU'RE MORE DARING THAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE.
I NEVER SAID YOU HAD TO TAKE OFF ALL YOUR CLOTHES!
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOUR INJURY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M ALREADY HEALED.
FWWOO
!!
THERE... YOU SEE?

AND...



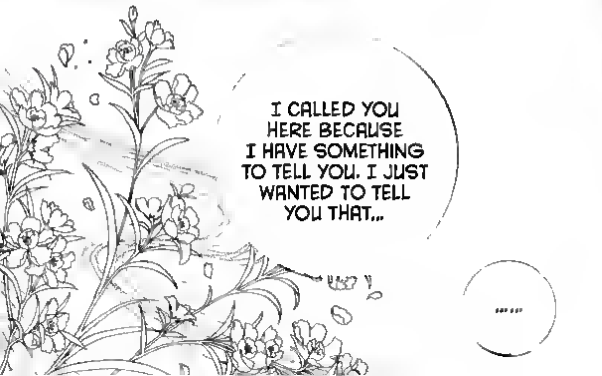
SOAH-NIM, HABAEK-NIM IS LOOKING FOR YOU.
SOAH-NIM.
HABAEK IS? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THEN I'LL GO TO HIM NOW.

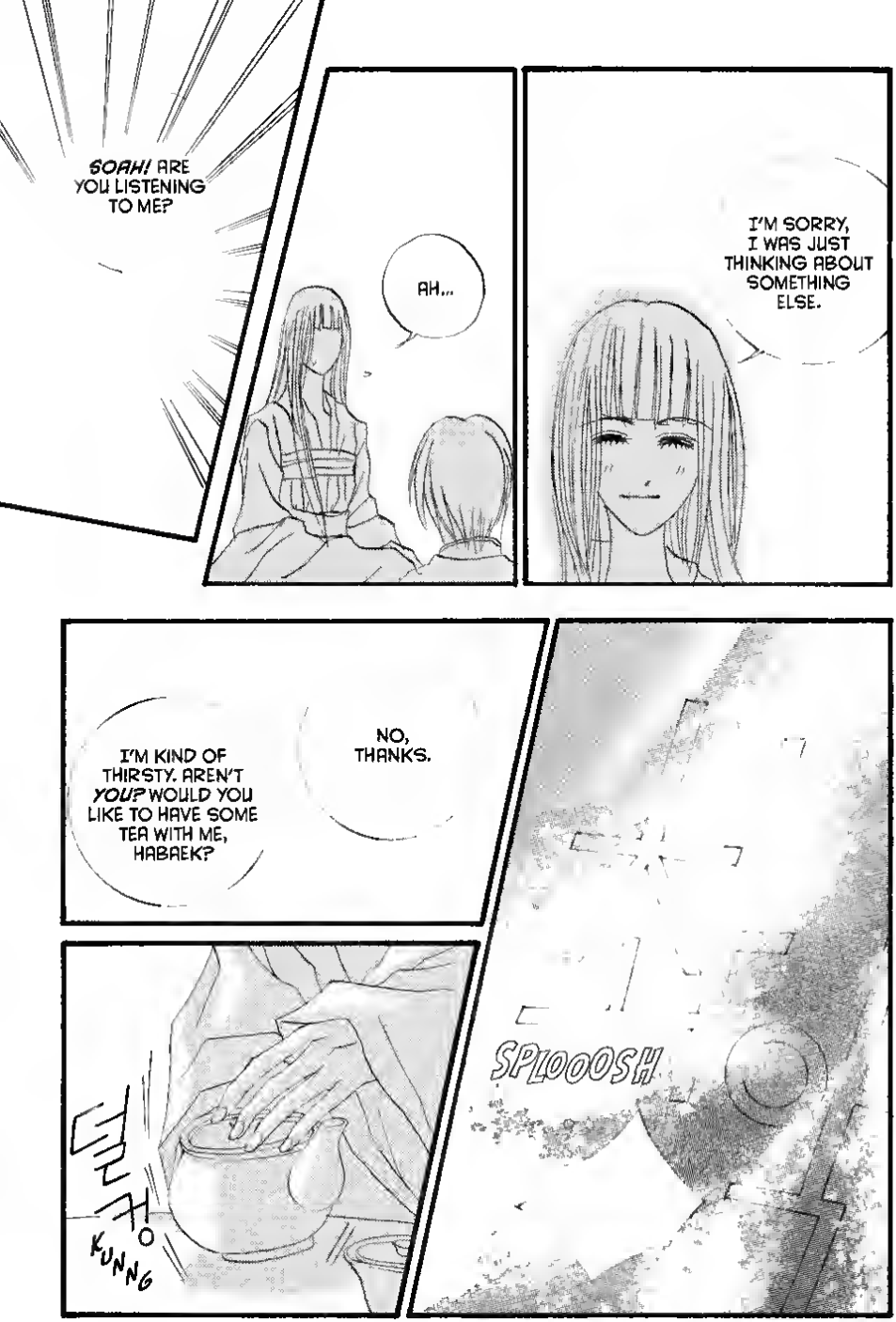
KRSH
AH... AH...
HMPH!

YOU WERE OUT VERY *LATE* LAST NIGHT. DID YOU HAVE FUN?
COME.

FUN...? YES, VERY MUCH SO.

.....
DOES HABAEK HAVE THE TATTOO AS WELL?

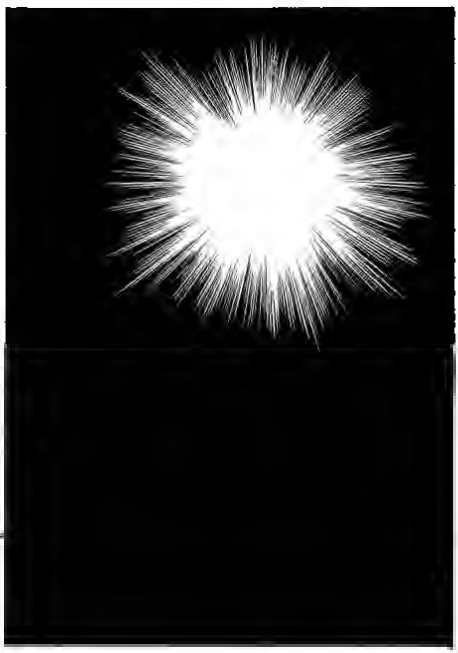

I CALLED YOU HERE BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU. I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT...
.....


SOAH! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
AH...
I'M SORRY, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
I'M KIND OF THIRSTY. AREN'T YOU? WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE SOME TEA WITH ME, HABAEK?
NO, THANKS.
SPLOOOSH
KUNG

OOPS! OH, NO!
IT JUST SLIPPED
OUT OF MY HANDS.
YOU SHOULD TAKE OFF
YOUR CLOTHES.
I'LL CLEAN THEM.
TAKE THEM OFF.

IT'S
OKAY. DON'T
WORRY.

WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU DON'T WANT
TO CATCH A COLD!
I'M TELLING YOU
TO TAKE THEM
OFF!

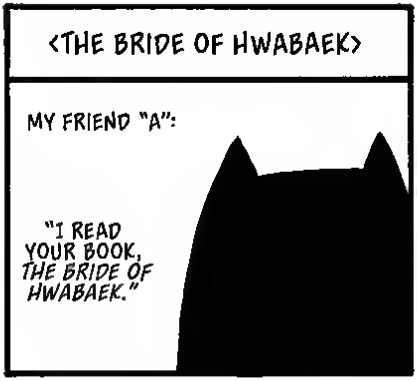


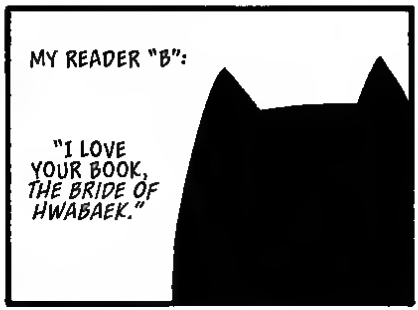
멈춰
FREEZE

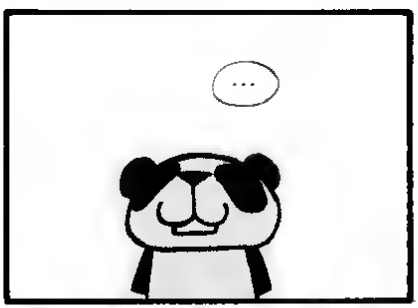
THIS IS...

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

EPILOGUE


<THE BRIDE OF HWABAEK>
MY FRIEND "A":
"I READ YOUR BOOK, THE BRIDE OF HWABAEK."


MY READER "B":
"I LOVE YOUR BOOK, THE BRIDE OF HWABAEK."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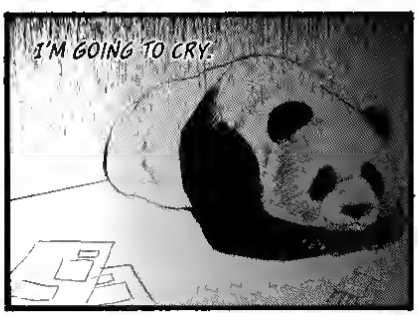
I'M GOING TO CRY.

<TITLE>
I HEARD THAT THE TITLE "BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD" WAS NOT THE ORIGINAL TITLE YOU WERE GOING TO USE?
YES. ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING <$+!#> OR <@$$%!$$@>.
HMPH!
THE ORIGINAL TITLE I WAS THINKING OF IS A SECRET!
<APPRECIATION>
MY EDITOR, PARENTS, FRIENDS, ETC, ETC... I WILL ALWAYS TRULY APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU.
I WILL PAY BACK THIS APPRECIATION...
...IN THE NEXT LIFE...
PAY BACK RIGHT NOW!
WAAH!

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editor
Philip Simon

digital production
Ryan Hill

collection designer
David Nestelle

art director
Lia Ribacchi

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I'm very happy to have so many good people around me.

I thank my parents who always watch over me, my editor who has to work doubly hard because of my shortcomings, my older sister who even goes to the publisher's office with me for deadlines, my younger sibling who seems to have grown up before I did, my fans at Wink Mi-Kyung Fan Café who always encourage me greatly, Ms. Yuni who always comes from so far away for me for deadlines, my best friend who inspires and encourages me even from far away, and finally all the readers of this book.

I wish all of you great happiness!

—*Mi-Kyung Yun*

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Ji gu Bang-moon gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

Creator photo gallery

Mi-Kyung Yun and her Korean publisher, Seoul Cultural Publishers, Inc., were kind enough to send us some promotional photographs of the creator, and a shot of one of her workstations.

2
유미정

Entertain

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

When Soah's impoverished, desperate village decides to sacrifice her to the Water God Habaek to end a long drought, they believe that drowning one beautiful girl will save their entire community and bring much-needed rain. Not only is Soah surprised to be *rescued* by the Water God instead of killed; she never imagined she'd be a welcomed guest in Habaek's magical kingdom, where an exciting new life awaits her! Most surprising, however, is the Water God himself, and how very different he is from the monster Soah imagined . . .

Created by Mi-Kyung Yun, who received the "Best New Artist" award in 2004 from the esteemed *Dokja-manhwa-daesang* organization, *Bride of the Water God* was the top-selling *shoujo* manhwa in Korea in 2006!

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translucent

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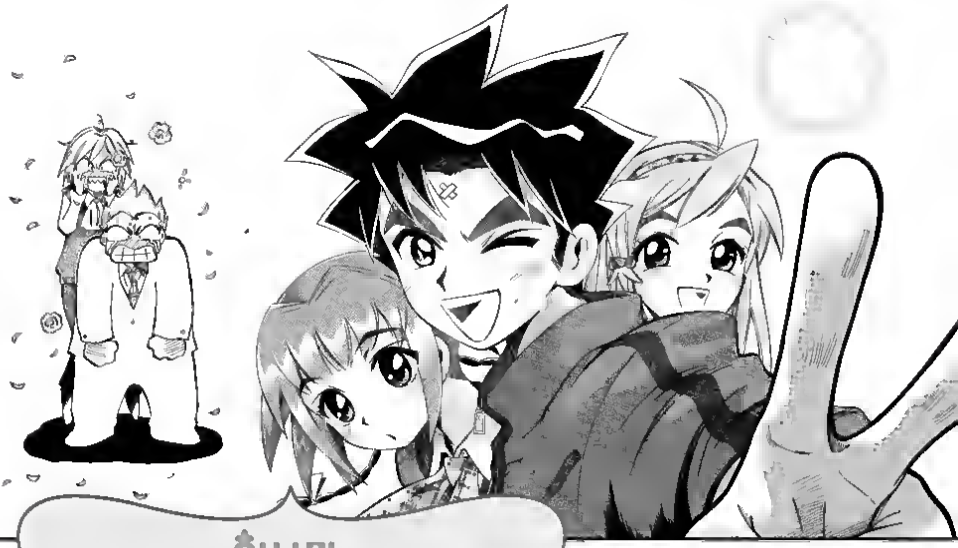

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윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

2

Bride of the Water God

Habaek, the mysterious Water God, is cursed to live in the form of a little boy during the day—while he turns back to his true adult self at night. His new human bride, Soah, thinks that she's been married to a child and has no idea that the attractive "Mui" is actually the indecisive adult Habaek. Surrounded by a cast of colorful elemental gods and their servants, Soah is tempted by flirtations from both "Mui" and the rascal Huye. Things get even more complicated after Tae-eul-jin-in spills a surprising secret, and Soah audaciously plots to uncover the truth for herself. She has to be careful, though, so she doesn't anger the moody gods—including her powerful and unpredictable husband!

Mi-Kyung Yun received the "Best New Artist" award in 2004 from the esteemed Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization. *Bride of the Water God*, with its enchanting, romantic storyline and breathtaking artwork, was Korea's top-selling 2006 *sunjeong* manhwa (similar to the *shojo* manga genre).

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